Disclaimer

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Chapter 2

Prologue

In a certain high school, in a certain city, there was what you would call your standard bullied kid.

But even if you call him that, it's not like he would find graffiti all over his desk or have his stationeries stolen or anything like that. He wasn't physically assaulted, or harassed in some cliché fashion. It's just that he was isolated and on the bad end of some harsh remarks.

Without any comrades, or any to call friends. And within that situation, with such minor acts of harassment done to him every day, there was no one to get involved for his sake.

But in the face of this daily cruelty, that student continued to come to school each and every day. What's more, he arrived there earlier than everyone else.

When asked for the reason, that boy gave a response befitting a standard, diligent student.

— The perfect attendance award looks kinda appealing, doesn't it?

That was all. For a reason as simple as that, from the start of high school to the two years plus a bit he had been enrolled, he continued to come every day.

It was as if he wasn't on the receiving end of any cruelty.

"Ah… today, we'll be introducing a transfer student."

And in the class of that boy, whose everyday life was as it was, a single transfer student appeared.

The middle-aged teacher–who gave off a listless impression and looked as if a beard would suit him–began writing the transfer's name on the blackboard, as he invited her into the classroom.

The board displayed the characters for the name『Shinozaki Shiori』.

Just as the name would imply, the student that entered the room was wearing a female uniform. She had straight hair that extended to her lower back, cat-like eyes, and a smile brimming with curiosity. It was a female student one would commonly refer to as a Bishojo.

As evidence, the class's male population were entranced by her friendly smile, and the females honestly thought to themselves that the girl before them was cute.

(She's cute…)

A thin smile floated on the bullied kid's face as he thought this.

And the female student who entered, Shinozaki Shiori, suddenly burst into laughter as she lowered her head. She began her self-introduction.

"I just transferred here from Kanagawa, and I'm Shinozaki Shiori! I hope we get along!"

(TL: Kanagawa is a prefecture around the lower right of Kantou)

It was a short intro, but her smile and her clear voice were enough to make the class fascinated with her.

And after a brief instance of silence, the class began to give their applause to

welcome her in.

“Ah, yeah, yeah, calm down… you can ask your questions later. Um, Shinozaki’s seat is…. Dammit… It’s next to Naginata.”

“Um, ah yes. That open one over there, right!”

Naginata was the last name of that bullied child. Shinozaki Shiori put her hand horizontally across her forehead as if to look at something from afar, as her seat, which had been installed the day before, and the bullied kid’s seat came into view.

The entire class had some dissatisfaction that that bullied kid was going to be the one sitting next to such a cute girl, and they began to direct glares at him. But having thought it was a hassle, they had pushed the job of carrying the desk there on that kid in the first place, so they couldn’t say anything about it.

And Shinozaki briskly walked through those stares, and took her seat next to the bullied kid who was in the very back, one seat away from the window. She sat in the back window seat.

(TL: The main character’s seat.)

“Um, I’m called Shinozaki Shiori. Nice to meet you!”

Shinozaki said that as she directed an amiable smile at the boy sitting adjacent to her. The class’s gaze was now directed at him.

But without paying their eyes any regard, he returned a response with a faint smile on his face.

“Yeah, my name is Naginata Kitsune. Besides aiming for perfect attendance, I’m just a normal diligent student.”

The class looked at him as if he were something disgusting.

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About two weeks passed.

The transfer student Shinozaki Shiori had already built a place for herself in the class and had become quite a popular entity.

When break time came around, people would gather around her desk, and when the end of the day came, they would always casually invite her to hang out. Something along those lines.

Due to her appearance, she even received numerous confessions of love from the boys, but there were no signs that she was currently going out with anyone.

“Mornin’ Kitsune-san!”

“Good morning, Shiori-chan. You sure are energetic today. Annoyingly so.”

“Aha! You sure are bitter!”

This exchange was what took place daily now. Naginata was usually just called Kitsune. Perhaps his aloofness, and his nature unaffected by bullying, had gotten him related to a monster of old.

But for the transfer student, who was dense to such matters, it was taken as a simple nickname, and she got around to calling him that as well.

(TL: Naginata’s first name (桔音) does not particularly have any meaning in itself, but it is read Kitsune. Anyways, all you have to know is that they’re menacingly calling him the other Kitsune.)

“Did you do yesterday’s homework? The math teacher’s harsh if ‘ya forget it, right!”

“I did. All the answers were 2x.”

“Hey, there’s no way that’s… You seriously wrote 2x down for all of them!?”

It was a simple exchange without pleasantries, but to Kitsune, the woman who treated him nicely unlike the rest of the class was just a little bit special.

Even so, it’s not like he was in love or anything. She was just someone he could look on as a friend.

And for Shiori, Kitsune was also a bit special. From the others’ attitudes towards him, she could tell that he was the target of some harassment. In the school she transferred from, there was bullying as well, and people often consulted her on it.

But unlike the bullied kids she knew, Kitsune kept on smiling as if nothing had ever happened to him.

And for that slight difference, he was just a bit special to her.

“Ah, now that I think about it, Kitsune-san, don’t you live next to the house I’m gonna move to?”

“I believe the house next to mine was moved into by someone or another the other day.”

“I definitely saw you come out from the house next to mine!”

“I see. Then I guess my house really is next to yours.”

Shiori had a smile as radiant as a sunflower as she continued her idle banter with Kitsune. The girl truly seemed to be having fun, and the boy continued to have a faint smile on his face. The situation was quite favorable.

“And so, from today on, can’t we, like, return together? Maybe commute here

too!”

“Sure. There’s nothing better than coming to school with a Bishojo. Men of the world, take that ‘ya bastards.”

“B-bishojo? My, you’re making me blush.”

Shiori scratched her crimson face with one hand. Her figure was nailed into the hearts of the boys watching. Kitsune became the target of looks of envy and contempt, and even more slander began to be spewed in the shadows behind his back.

Of course, the bad rumors of him also reached Shiori’s ears, and she was told to stay away from him a few times.

But Shiori ignored those words and continued to tread up to Kitsune’s side. Her actions only bought more irritation for the surroundings. But the spear of scorn never found itself pointing at the girl. It always found itself piercing into Kitsune.

And it did not take long for the two of them to be isolated from the class.

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Three months after Shiori had transferred, their relations had strengthened from seat neighbors to best friends. They came to and from school together, and they were together for lunch and other breaks.

On his birthday, Shiori presented him a Kitsune face mask, and on hers, he gave a bookmark. It was common for the two to play together. (TL: Shiori can mean bookmark)

Rumors that the two were dating circulated around the school. To both Kitsune and Shiori, the days were filled with happiness. It was the pinnacle of school life.

But that happiness was short-lived.

On that day, Kitsune had a fever. In order to preserve his attendance, he stubbornly forced himself to head to school with Shiori as always.

His best friend could easily tell that something was wrong with him. The reason she didn't stop him was because apart from getting the perfect attendance award, there wasn't anything that truly interested the boy.

"Are you alright, Kitsune-san?"

"I'm fine, Shiori-chan. I'm energetic enough, and it's not like my fever's higher than 38. I don't feel cold or nauseous or anything, and it's not like I can skip school."

Turning his eyes from the worrying Shiori, Kitsune opened his shoe locker as he said this.

"!"

"What's wrong?"

"No, it's nothing."

He took out his indoor shoes and placed the letter that was inside the locker into his pocket. He briskly entered the classroom and took his seat. Shiori followed his lead and sat beside him.

"… Don't try doing anything impossible, okay?"

"I've never tried an impossible thing in my life."

Class started at once. The middle-aged teacher started teaching as normal, and the students quietly opened their notebooks. There were plenty who talked amongst themselves in secret, but time passed relatively quietly.

And in that time, Kitsune produced the letter from his pocket and opened it. The contents told him to come to the gym storage room after school. What it showed was that those who had refrained from raising their arms at him were finally going to resort to violence. Kitsune crumpled the note into a ball and returned it to his pocket.

(… It seems my luck's really running low today. No, perhaps I've been cursed or something.)

He cracked jokes at himself within his heart, as he returned to taking notes at the lesson.

And since the time of misfortunes are ones that come swiftly, school had ended before he noticed it. He rose to leave with Shiori as per usual, but she wasn't by his side. He tried to guess where she had gone, but the fact was that she was not there.

He had a bad premonition. And he had an idea of what it was about.

"… They better not be…"

He muttered to himself as he swiftly moved his feet to the designated location. The meeting point of that morning's letter: the Gym Storage.

"Sorry to intrude."

The storage room was close to the entrance, so he was able to reach it without taking too much time.

When he entered, he saw that Shiori was definitely there.

But her arms and legs were bound by ropes, there was duct tape over her mouth, and three of the class's boys were touching her body as they pleased.

“That’s quite a look you have going on there, Shiori-chan.”

“Nn–!!”

Her uniform had been ripped to pieces, and the upper half now barely covered more than her underwear. From the cuts on her skirt, pink colored panties were faintly visible.

In a situation like that, the three boys were happily fondling her breast and ass. Their hands moved all over her body, and every time they touched her, Shiori tried to writhe and resist.

“Hehehe, oy, Kitsune~. Aren’t you getting way too close to Shinozaki lately? It pisses me off. And so I’ll have to train you to never get close to her again.”

“Hey, hey, person whose name I don’t know, Boy A-kun. Your male jealousy is a repulsive sight to behold.”

“What? This isn’t jealousy. You don’t suit her at all, so I’m just going to take her for myself.”

“Mu–!”

Honestly, Shiori wanted Kitsune to run away.

His fever was high, and from his responses, it was clear that he had nausea and cold fits. She couldn’t imagine just how hard it was for him to come here. It was a time when he should have been resting in bed all day.

And regardless of what happened to her, she didn’t want to see him hurt.

“I see. So this is that desire to monopolize and dominate thingy. How nice, you’ve caught my attention. But for me, having you look at my best friend Shiori-chan with such vile eyes isn’t something I’ll let pass so easily.”

“Hmm? You’re going to resist us… oy, you guys go do him in.”

“Hehehe”

“I’ve been wanting to smash his face in for a while.”

The leader-ish boy gave the orders, and the other two boys approached Kitsune. Shiori raised her voice to stop them, but the tape prevented any words from forming.

“Oy, oy, don’t be so angry. Can’t we all calm down and talk this out?”

He addressed the approaching boys as a faint smile floated on his face.

And feeling a sense of repulsion from the smile, the boys stopped in their tracks. What they felt was fear. What’s more, that fear didn’t come from Kitsune, who was standing before them. It seemed to well up from the depths of their hearts.

“And what was it again? You wanted Shiori-chan or something? Ahaha, and? There are, like, three of you here, so once you kill me, are you going to start killing amongst yourselves for her? Or are you all going to love her together? Are you going to say something like that?”

Kitsune took a step forward.

“Ahaha, it’s laughable. No no, this is strange… just too funny, that I might start vomiting. All of you listen here, won’t you?”

Saying that, he took another step. And taking a glance at Shiori, who had tears in her eyes, he ominously raised the corners of his lips.

“—The second you made a woman cry, you lost the right to love another person.”

One more step. He was right in front of one of the boys who had been consumed by fear. As he was the shortest among those present, Kitsune looked up to gaze into the boy's eyes. They were close enough that their noses could have touched, and Kitsune continued laughing as the boy saw his own eyes reflected in his.

But that boy couldn't take his eyes off Kitsune. No, he wanted to look away, but because of the ominous pressure Kitsune released, his body didn't permit him to do so.

Even though Kitsune was full of openings to strike, the leader-ish boy and the other one weren't able to do a thing. What linked all three boys were the beads of sweat rolling down their faces.

"How about you? If you kill me, and get Shiori-chan for the three of you, do you think that leader-kun over there is going to give you enough Shiori-chan time to satisfy you? He's the type of guy who's taking me out of the picture to get his hands on her, you know? For a man of such small caliber, will he allow anyone else to be with the woman he worked so hard to get his hands on?"

"…ah…!"

"What's wrong? You look a little pale, but are you alright? I'm a bit worried. Do you want to go to the nurse's office? If you want to go now, then I'll offer kind words to you all day as I spend it carefully nursing you back to health."

The boy who was being glared at let out a broken voice. From Kitsune's eyes, he could tell that all the words he said were true.

"Not that I'd particularly enjoy nursing a guy."

The boy's expression suddenly changed as he took a step back from Kitsune. It was as if, for a moment, the paralysis binding him had been released, and he fell to his knees. Even though he hadn't done anything to expend his energy, he breathed heavily as if he had forgotten to breath for a long time. A cold sweat was breaking out all over his body.

Scary. Scary. What the hell is this? Is this thing supposed to be human?

There's no mistake that that's a mistake.

Without going mad, what is with this madness?

Without any stagnation, he forced me to stagnate.

In this situation, how can this one laugh? We have three people here, and he's alone! If we take action, if we tried in the slightest, we'd come out on top without a doubt.

Even so, the second I raise my fist, the second I glare at him, the second I approach him, it feels as if I'm going to die.

"So? How about it?"

"Hii…!?"

Kitsune's head made a strange turn as it moved to face the other boy. The boy's face turned pale in an instant.

And as Kitsune slowly approached him, with his body rocking back and forth, the boy tried to run.

"U-UWAAAAAAAAH!"

But this was a storage room, and all places he could run to would only lead to a wall. The only exit was the door, and in that direction was Kitsune. He ran into a dead-end before he could even try to escape.

And so, Kitsune reached him. He placed one of his feet between the boy's two shaking legs, causing him, not to squat, but to collapse. And Kitsune brought his face to meet the boy's.

This time… He was looking down on him.

“Hey, hey, don’t be so scared. See, there are no weapons in my hands, right? My physical abilities are far below you guys, and as long as you have Shiori-chan hostage, I can’t make any moves.”

“N…o, don’t come…. Closer!”

“Anyways, why are you guys lending your help to that guy? Is that leader-kun scary if you go against him? Did he pay you to do it? Or is it friendship? Mutual love towards Shiori-chan?”

“… Ku…! O-of course… it’s ‘cuz we’re friends…!”

“Hm…mm?”

On the boy’s words, Kitsune’s smile grew even wider, and he unsteadily shifted his eyes all over the boy’s body.

In the pocket of the boy’s uniform, he spotted a white envelope. Kitsune casually took it out and checked the contents. In it were three 10,000¥ bills.

He laughed as he tossed them over his shoulder.

“Money, I see. So your friendship is buyable in cash.”

Saying that, Kitsune produced his own wallet from his pocket. From it, he pulled out five 10,000¥s. It was the allowance for the next three months his mother had given to him.

“Look, I’ll give this money to you.”

“… S-sto… stop…”

Kitsune wrapped the boy's hand around the bills.

"And so…"

"Stop, please…!"

With a wide smile…

"… I'd like it if you would be my friend!"

He said that.

"UWAAAAAAAAAAAH!!!"

The boy couldn't handle it anymore. He tossed the money to the ground, pushed Kitsune aside, and tripped numerous times as he ran out of the storehouse.

Kitsune looked over the scene as he carefully collected the money on the floor, adding the boy's 30,000 to his own increasing his allowance by 60%.

"Ah, he ran away. Was he that against becoming my friend? Or could it be that I didn't have enough money? Well, well, I guess the cost of friendship is higher than it used to be. I guess it is something precious!"

And saying that, Kitsune turned to the Leader boy. The boy who had fallen to his knees didn't have the motivation to move anymore, as he simply hung his head in despair.

"… Y… y-you bastard…! Don't you care what happens to her!?"

Leader boy embraced Shiori as not to let Kitsune approach any further, as he pulled the knife hanging from his waist and held it against her neck. His hands were shaking, and his teeth clattered together. He was quite cornered mentally.

And seeing that, Kitsune suddenly stopped his feet.

“Ah… I see, as I thought, it’s no good. As I thought, you’re no good at all.”

“T-the hell! Shut up!”

“You’re going to stick that knife into Shiori-chan? Even after you went on about love or like or something of the sort? Ahahaha! Yep, it’s so funny that my head’s starting to hurt.”

Kitsune took yet another step forward. The leader’s breathing was thrown into disarray as he tried to search for why Kitsune would proceed despite the risk of Shiori being stabbed.

“Hey, you see, I don’t really know… what sort of resolve or feelings you had when you took these actions… It really is quite unpleasant, and I hate troubling things. Well, I’m diligent, wholesome, academically excellent, and a model student when it comes to public morals, so I naturally have to stand against you rebellious teenage punks, but that knife… try moving it a few more centimeters…”

“A-ah… AAH, AAAAAAAH!!”

“… And you’ll regret it for the rest of your life.”

“AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!!!!!!”

Plop.

That sort of sound rang out. As if someone had collapsed on their bed after a long day, as if someone was just drumming on a sofa cushion. That sort of soft sound.

And the storehouse, and its ground, began to be stained in a red color. The sound of something gushing echoed through the room, and three bodies were

stained red.

“Ah… ha… hahaha…. AHAHAHAHAHAHAHAH! It’s the end… It’s my win! Take that, retard!!!!! Ah HAHAHA!!”

The Leader boy broke into maddened laughter. As if his mind had been pushed to its limit, it was a hollow laugh of desperation.

Before his eyes, before Shiori’s wide eyes, was Kitsune, with a knife stuck into the area below the right of his chest. The bleeding was severe, and red liquid gushed out without end. And half of Kitsune’s face was covered with his own blood.

“… Ah This kinda hurts. Yeah, it hurts, ow… how is this much blood coming out?”

“!? W-why… why are you so calm!!?”

“… Well, does it really matter? So are you satisfied, Leader-kun? Your desires have been answered, and your knife has found its way through my body.”

And Kitsune continued to laugh. He smiled. He sneered. The blood showed no signs of stopping, and with a faint smile, and a bloodstained face, he looked up at the leader boy’s eyes.

“Ah… what the hell… you… disgusting… you, are you really human…!?”

“Me? Let’s see, I’m a diligent, wholesome, human, normal in every way besides my aim to get the perfect attendance award, you know? From my point of view, you guys are much more the monsters here.”

Kitsune tilted his head to one side as he calmly said it.

“You never persecuted me, you never hit me, you never bullied me, you never threw harsh words to my face, and you never helped me. You went to lengths to

deny my very existence, and treated me as if I wasn't there. And when I turn out inconvenient to you, you try to erase me like so. This world really isn't kind to me, is it? But it's fine, you know? To me, this is my daily life, and I've learned how to enjoy it."

Kitsune used his bloodstained hand to grasp the knife and pull it out of his body, and tried to stop the massive amounts of blood pouring out of the wound. With the other hand, he grabbed the leader boy's head.

"… Gu… !?"

"So why don't you try enjoying my life too? It'll definitely be fun, right? Having a knife pierce through your face. You have no allies, and there's no one to save you. Someday, everyone will forget you, and your existence will quietly vanish from this world. That's what you were trying to do to me. Doesn't that sound intriguing?"

"Uah… stop… sto… I was wrong… I'll apologi… I'm sorry… please save me!!"

To Kitsune, who was slowly bringing the knife closer, the leader apologized as tears spewed out of his eyes. He desperately petitioned the heavens to prevent his own demise.

But the corners of Kitsune's mouth simply rose high, and he began to laugh.

"'And to the people who begged for their lives, what did you do?' It's my life's dream to become a villain who can pull off a line like that!"

The knife slid into the leader boy's eye socket.

"GAAAAAAAAAH!!!!"

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A few minutes later, the leader boy took the boy who could no longer raise his head and ran. With the knife still in his eye, and with blood running down his

face, he ran to find a teacher.

And for those who were left in the storage room, Kitsune was undoing Shiori's binding. His breathing was all over the place, and his smile had gotten fainter than ever.

"Hah…! Hah…! Ha-haha… Are you injured? Shiori-chan…"

"You're in a much worse state that me, Kitsune-san!"

"If you're that energetic… you're probably fine. Owowow, I think this isn't going to work out…"

He collapsed. Shiori rushed to prop his body up, ignoring the blood staining her clothes.His wound was so vital, that she had no idea what course of action to take, and there seemed to be no way to stop the gushing liquid. Even if she tried to bind it, it wouldn't stop. Tears naturally fell down her face.

Seeing her expression, Kitsune revived his smile.

"Oy, don't cry… I came here to save you, right? This is where you should be… smiling."

"I can't smile when you're on the verge of death, Kitsune-san…!"

As Shiori said that, she suddenly seemed to remember something as she took out her cellphone and called an ambulance. Following their first aid instructions, she began talking to him in order to keep his conscious afloat.

"Kitsune-san…! You can't die!"

"This doesn't sound like Shiori-chan… I like it better when you're energetic and laughing…"

"Kitsune-san! Please get a grip, I still want to be with you!"

“Ah, haha…”

To put it bluntly, Kitsune had already suffered fatal wounds.

It’s unclear whether or not it was a coincidence, but the knife had penetrated his liver. What’s more, the bleeding was severe. He had a fever during the whole confrontation, and the damage done to the single point was greater than if he had been hurt all over his body. It’s amazing that he was still conscious. Normally, he would have died instantly.

His chances of survival were pretty much moot. And it seems the man understood it himself.

“Shiori-chan. I’m… thankful to you. For a girl like you to see me off in the end, there’s nothing happier… than that.”

“Don’t say it’s the end! Let’s play more after this! Let’s go out somewhere, laugh a lot together… and….!”

“… That’s right… then once my wounds heal, shall we go to an amusement park…. That sounds fun…”

And Kitsune smiled. And in response, Shiori let out tears as she gave a smile as radiant as a sunflower.

From the outside, she could hear the sound of an ambulance’s siren.

“That’s right… we’ll definitely go together. So if you don’t heal up quickly, you’re in for some punishment.”

“Hahaha… that’s the one… that smile… When you make a face like that… I love…”

The storage room’s door burst open, and the emergency corps rushed in. The

three male students and Kitsune were immediately carted off, and Shiori followed.

She grasped Kitsune's hand as he writhed around in pain, as she prayed for his safety.

(Ah~… just a little more, I'd like to live just a bit… a lap pillow from Shiori-chan would be the happiest, most historical, moment in all of my life…)

Looking over Shiori, Kitsune whispered that in his heart.

— But his wish to live was not granted. He gave his last breath soon after arriving at the hospital.

The boy's life came to an end, and the girl carried a promise in her heart that would never be fulfilled for all of her life.

Chapter 3

Chapter 1: What Kitsune Left Behind

It was pitch black.

It's black, and I can't feel anything. It doesn't feel like my eyes are closed, and I'll bet what I'm seeing isn't the back of my eyelids. I think I'm probably dead. I do think that I don't want to go, but in the end, with that state and those wounds, I guess dying is only natural.

I broke my promise. I kinda wanted to go to the amusement park. Now that I think about it, isn't that totally a date? What's more, a date with a bishojo. My life always does this to me whenever things are looking good.

— I made her cry…

What's left of my memory, is the scene of Shiori's teary face. The feeling of her warm tears dripping onto my face one by one. That feeling is still firmly implanted in my memory.

"Kitsune-san… why… don't leave me behind…?"

I hear a voice. It's Shiori's. But it's still pitch black, and it doesn't even feel like I have a body, so I can't move a finger.

If I were to open my eyes, then perhaps I could see Shiori-chan again, but I don't have the sensation of eyelids I can open.

If I were to reach out my hand, then perhaps I could touch Shiori-chan, but I

have no hand to extend.

If I were to open my mouth, then perhaps I could make small-talk with her as always, but I have no mouth to mince words.

Irritating, yeah, it's irritating. For me not to be able to make a single woman smile… how powerless am I?

"Kitsu…san! Ki—-n…!"

Her voice is getting farther and farther away. Ah, it seems I really am dying here. It feels like I'm sinking into a deep, cold sea. So this is death… it's my first time, please be gentle. Oh wait, it's not as if I have a mouth to say it.

Well, my life really wasn't a nice thing… but I guess that in the end of the end, I protected my friend so that's something. But since I made that friend cry, I guess there's no meaning in it. It was self-satisfaction and self-sacrifice.

But that's just about enough.

My conscious completely dissolves into the deep darkness and vanishes.

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From the moment he was born, Naginata Kitsune wasn't one well-liked by others.

From the day he was born, he never once experienced his mother's warm embrace. And all of this was because he wasn't a child she wished to birth.

When his mother gave birth to him, she was a 17-year-old high school student, and it's unknown who the other man was. Why did such a woman give birth to him? The reason was that she lived an everyday life of schoolgirl prostitution. Her desire for money led her to wear highly revealing clothing to seduce middle-aged men, and she received a considerable『Allowance』in exchange for her body.

Of course, she didn't want children in the slightest, so she did take the necessary contraceptive measures, but the other man forcefully approached her, and in the end, she wound up pregnant. The reason she didn't know who the father was because she was blindfolded and tied up when it happened. A so-called rape.

She did try for an abortion. She thought raising a child was a pain, and she didn't like children in and of themselves. But her parents wouldn't allow it. They said the child bore no fault, and they wouldn't allow him to be discarded. Because he was protected by his mother's parents, Kitsune was born safely.

And the mother that birthed him, despite him being born of her own womb, neglected in raising him. The ones who raised him were that girl's parents—Kitsune's grandparents.

He was only raised surrounded with love until he entered kindergarten.

After he entered, his atmosphere took a sudden change. He was always a child who would smile a lot, but he suddenly stopped smiling at all. His grandmother found it strange, and asked, but he merely gave a powerless laugh, and didn't say anything.

He had been faced with bullying. For some reason, the other kids hated him, and even the teachers kept a distance from him. He was always alone, left out, and he even faced violence from the kids who didn't know to hold back. There wasn't even a teacher to protect him from them. Every day, the bruises on his body increased, and his words and smiles decreased.

Those days continued, and by the time he had become one of the older kids, he had lost both of his grandparents.

The cause was an accident. While they were on the way to work, and he was playing in kindergarten, a train derailed, and they were run over as they waited for it at the platform. For them, death came instantly.

Kitsune was taken in by the mother who pushed him away. At that point, she

was 22, and having learned her lesson with prostitution, she earned her living now through part-time work.

He had lost his grandparents, and the money from their insurance went to his mother, so Kitsune was able to attend elementary school. The reason his mother had allowed him to go was to keep up her image to the public.

While he attended school, his expression and spirit just continued to get more and more enervated. The death of the grandparents who showered him with love, and the start of his life with the mother who abandoned him, were the main causes of his mental stress.

『Why did I give birth to a child like you…』

His mother would often let out those words.

She was unable to do any housework properly, and Kitsune ended up taking care of everything in the house. Of course, at the start, he kept on failing and incurring his mother's wrath. If he put out bad food, he was struck, and if he broke something, smacked. It was in that cycle, that his kindergarten trauma revived itself, as the area under his clothes began to be covered with bruises once more. He couldn't even remember the amount of times he cried.

In elementary school, they didn't use violence, but for some incomprehensible reason, he was always left out, and spoken ill of in the shadows. The mental stress took a toll on his body, and at school, he was always alone.

The one who supported him was a single male teacher. That teacher would call out to him every day and encourage him.

『Listen here, don't always look at the painful things in life. You just have to look for the fun things.』

『What? People are talking behind your back? Don't mind it, if you just let it slide, then all that's left is some kids speaking trivial nonsense about something they know nothing about.』

『You… those wounds!? Who did it!?』

Whenever something happened to Kitsune, he would take the initiative and take action. He was sincere, hot-blooded, and a model teacher loved by all. So Kitsune followed his words, and paid no mind to the slander, looking over it and laughing at it. He even began to train his body to some extent. He learned to say some provocative things, but that was all part of growing up, he thought.

But at a certain time, a sentence from his mother dug into his heart.

『Your smile, it's disgusting.』

He didn't know why. However, those simple words dug deep into his heart. After that, Kitsune began to hesitate to smile. The word disgusting prevented him.

But if he wasn't smiling, he would start worrying his teacher. With emotions like that, his mother's words, and his desire not to make his teacher worry, the boy was put between a rock and a hard place, and after that, Kitsune began to smile while he wasn't smiling. A vague, thin smile would often float on his face.

While he was like that, he gave off an unnecessarily unnerving feeling to others, and throughout elementary school, he was the target of bullying.

And he graduated and moved up to middle school. That was the turning point of his life.

He was distanced from the teacher that supported him, and baseless slander about him continued to spread and torment him. He simply wanted a space where he wasn't a bother to anyone, and whenever school ended, he would hole himself up in a nearby library. He read numerous books, novels, essays, manga, theses, history books, western novels, magazines, and albums; he would read anything.

And by doing so, the boy called Kitsune began to think. Why was he bullied?

And a single answer came up

『There is no reason. It is through excluding and looking down on someone who humans can build their twisted friendship.』

Meaning that he was merely a sacrifice for the twisted relations of others. That's why Kitsune gave up. If you ask what he gave up on: To confront the bullying. There was no reason. There was no cause. There was no point.

They just kinda didn't like him, so they picked on him.

He just looked kinda weak, so they picked on him.

Kinda, Kinda, Kinda, there really was no reason, and since Kitsune, with his faint smile, was mildly disgusting, they bullied him. There was nothing he could do about it.

And so…

He decided to accept everything. The fact that he was bullied just became something he accepted as part of his everyday life. And by doing that, he erased the very notion that the harassment was painful from his mind.

From that day, the creepiness of his faint smile increased… and Kitsune stopped going to the library all together.

From the next day, the atmosphere surrounding the bullying changed.

Kitsune started taking the harassment as something he had to accept himself. He continued to give an unsettling smile, he laughed at the meaningless slander as he confirmed his theory. There was nothing more disgusting.

And so, the bullying stopped. It's not like Kitsune entered the circle of twisted friendship and camaraderie. The very reason that he was being excluded had changed.

What was born in its place was the feeling that『I don’t want to get involved with that guy』.

Kitsune spent his middle school life with a faint smile constantly floating over his face.

And it was the same at home. In a similar way, his mother no longer wanted to be involved with him. She even stopped touching the food he made for her. There were no conversations between them, and on the contrary, his mother began to grow afraid of him. In exchange for not being liked by anyone—he was no longer hated by anyone.

Everyone just wanted to stay uninvolved and apathetic to his plight.

◇

High school.

One, two years went by in the same way as middle school. The disgusting feeling from Kitsune’s faint smile affected his peers, upper-classmates, lower-classmates, and everyone, inflicting mental stress.

And in the last year of Kitsune’s high school life… they began slandering him again. The stress his surroundings had built up from putting up with him finally went out of control. Even if they wanted to remain apathetic, they would have gone into a panic if they didn’t find an outlet for their stress. Kitsune put up with that slander with the same faint smile as ever. He happily accepted it as part of himself. That merely added more onto their built-up stress.

The one who walked into the room was Shinozaki Shiori.

She was a little bit of a strange person, and she excelled at picking up the signs to see what other people were feeling.

In an environment that wanted to stay uninvolved with Kitsune, yet could do

nothing but hate him, she was drawn to the boy. He didn't try to stand against the bullying, and he did absolutely nothing to stop it, but for some reason he didn't seem to be in a weak position. That contradictory existence made her step up to Kitsune.

By involving himself with her, the boy gradually began to change. At the very least, from the perspective of the people who found him creepy, he had changed completely.

Only when Kitsune was talking to Shiori… was when his smile truly seemed to contain any joy.

They got along so well that many suspected they were dating. That's probably why the status quo crumbled, and the surroundings regressed. They tried to set up their twisted friendship once more.

Naginata Kitsune was someone who always must be hated.

Shinozaki Shiori was a nice girl who was always loved by others.

Those around them saw their most hated one getting along with the nice girl they all cherished, and the stress built up as the two spent their days in happiness… it was unforgivable. They couldn't permit it, so their pent-up emotions exploded.

As a result, Kitsune was murdered.

The life of the boy known as Kitsune was literally removed, excluded from the world for the sake of their twisted friendship and lust. The only one to shed tears was Shiori. Everyone else rejoiced. They rejoiced at having the one who frightened them all disappear.

— But even after Kitsune died, they didn't feel that they had been freed from him.

Naginata Kitsune's entire life. After the first five years where he was lovingly

raised, after the years in middle and high school where he was hated and excluded, after the two years of high school where he was feared, and even after the last three months where he was loathed which eventually killed him, in the end, he was lovingly sent off by a close friend. Without any regrets, he died having protected her. He couldn't have hoped for a more heroic end.

And so, the people who surrounded him continued to be subconsciously bound to the boy.

They began to recognize their bullying for what it was. Using the excuse that he was at fault for not saying anything, they desperately justified their actions. They were the winners, and the better people, that's why.

Kitsune smiled up to the end, dying satisfied with life. Their exclusion and isolation was definitely what killed him. But by their logic, it was simply that he had lost. The reason being that up 'til the end, Kitsune never broke under the harassment. Since they were never able to isolate him in the truest sense, they had to admit defeat to him.

And that's why, by killing him, the sense of guilt birthed of their own twisted logic was something they were forced to shoulder. From there on, they were bound by the entity known as Naginata Kitsune for the rest of their lives.

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When I open my eyes, light rains down on me, clouding my vision, and when I try to relax, pain races around my body. And the next thing I perceive is the sound of the wind brushing against my ear, and the feeling of grass along my back and the back of my head.

My senses begin returning one after the other. The scent of vegetation, the feeling of cold, clear air, the beating of my heart, the warmth of my own body, the feeling of… being alive.

"… Where might this be?"

When I try speaking, what I hear is the familiar voice I knew belonged to me. I

thought I had died, but it seems I'm alive. My surroundings seem to be a forest of trees and plants. When I look up at the sky, I see that I had collapsed on the grass. This definitely isn't normal.

"… Hmm…"

I try raising my upper body, and in order to understand my state, I stretch my stiff body. A nice-sounding "crick" sounds out, and I am able to start processing my situation. I guess I should check a few things.

I'm wearing my school uniform, and on my belt is a knife I'm definitely familiar with. And, the kitsune mask that Shiori gave me is inside of my pocket.

"… Shiori-chan was crying, wasn't she…"

What I can remember is her shaking voice calling to me as I fell into the darkness. Since I made her cry, I felt a bit guilty.

But like this, since I'm alive, all I have to do is go find her again. Well, first, I'd appreciate it if someone were to explain this situation to me.

"Well then."

I hang Shiori's kitsune mask on the side of my head and fiddle with the knife as I get up. For now, I better move. I read quite a few books at the library, so I needlessly learned some survival information, and I guess it'll work out one way or another.

Like that, in the forest I knew nothing about, I begin walking to who knows where.

Chapter 4

Chapter 2: A Start Unknown To Kitsune

Shinozaki Shiori accompanied Kitsune all the way to the hospital. Despite the emergency measures enacted on him in the ambulance, he was still in a state where he could die at any moment, so the expressions of those performing the measures were grim throughout the voyage. No matter how they looked at it, he had suffered fatal injuries.

Even so, Shiori continued to grip the boy's hand with both of hers, as she desperately prayed for his life to be saved.

A few minutes later, they arrived at a single hospital. But that hospital never took on the patient known as Naginata Kitsune. Due to bad luck, the hospital had many patients in serious condition, and there was a deficiency in the doctors available to perform a surgery. And so, it turned out that Kitsune was to be carried off to another hospital.

Shiori was impatient. At this rate, he was going to die. But Kitsune's unlucky streak merely continued. The next one, and the next one found themselves unable to accept him, and the boy continued to be passed from one place to another in his near-death state.

And finally, the forth hospital accepted him. He was immediately rushed to the emergency room, and they were prepared to perform it… but what came on was a sudden power outage. The hospital's electronic tools ceased their functionality. While they quickly switched to their own back-up power to keep the machines running, the lights remained off. The surgery was conducted with minimal light, and the chances of it succeeding were close to 0.

In the middle of it, Kitsune's heart stopped, and it ended once they confirmed

there was no way to bring him back. Unable to move from the operating room, Kitsune never appeared before Shiori again.

◇ ◇ ◇

Kitsune-san left the emergency room. His face was pale, and he wasn't moving at all. When I touched him, he was dreadfully… cold. As he was transported around, he kept on losing more and more of himself, but I can't even feel the faint heat he emitted at the very end.

… He's dead.

He didn't have enough time to undertake the surgery, so it's more like it all ended too quickly. It feels like a hole's been opened in my chest, and my mouth won't move as I want it. It's like my own body no longer belongs to me anymore.

"… I'm sorry, with our power… we were unable to save him."

The doctor's words aren't entering my ears. I just blankly stared at the cold Kitsune-san's peaceful expression.

It's not like my life is flashing before my eyes, but the memories of the brief three months I spent with Kitsune-san pass through my head. It really was a short time. It really was too short a time, but each and every one of those memories shine within me. They begin to lose their color, my precious memories… my memories with Kitsune-san.

"Um… please take this."

"!"

A handkerchief was handed to me. When I shifted my gaze, I was the doctor looking at me with an expression full of pity, and my own eyes reflected in his. It looks like I'm… crying.

"… What?"

As I try rubbing my hands across my face, I find them soaked in my overflowing tears. It seems I had started crying without even noticing it. I take the doctor's handkerchief, and wipe my eyes. But it isn't stopping at all.

"W-what? Ah… sorry… hic… why……!"

Perhaps because it's like my own body isn't my own, when I begin to concentrate on my own tears, my body's senses slowly begin to return to normal. A sob that wasn't there before escaped my lips.

"Shiori!"

"Shiori-chan!"

I heard running footsteps approaching me from behind, and voices calling my name. As I slowly turned around, I found my father and mother. With strained expressions, they ran all the way up to me.

"Hah… hah… Shiori, are you alright? A call came from the school, and we were worried…!"

"Are you injured? I heard you went through something terrible…!?"

Father and mother are worried about me. I'm happy about that, but… even raising a voice to calm their worries was… impossible for me. Instead, by embracing my mother, something inside of me finally snapped.

The black and swirling dark emotions within my chest began flowing out all at once. Along with my crying voice…

"UWAAA…. Mo…m… UWAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!!!"

My expression is a mess. I can't stop my tears from flowing. I'm definitely letting out a deplorable scream. But I couldn't live without doing it. I mean,

Kitsune-san has… died. He's dead, meaning we'll never meet again.

Our morning greeting,

eating lunch together,

secretly talking to each other in class,

playing together after school,

it's all… over.

Just three months. If you compare it to the friends I've had until now, it's my shortest relation. But within me, it's probably… the most important one. That must be why I'm so sad. That must be why I'm spilling out these tears.

"Uwa…aa…! Kitsune-san! Don't die…!! Why… why do you have to die…! What about our promise…!? Uwaaaaah!"

In my mother's chest, I let out my mixed up emotions. There was no order or start or end. I just spit out whatever was on my mind. With those unstable emotions, my unstopping tears just continued to flow out.

"Shiori…"

Mother strongly held my body close. I can't see her face, but her body is shaking. She's also crying.

"Kitsune-san… he saved me…! He risked his life, and he fought for my sake…! But! I… if he was going to die, then I didn't want his help at all!!"

"Shiori!!"

From my mother's arms, another pair of strong hands pulled me out. It was

quite sudden, so I frantically turned around. There, my father, who always made a kind face, stared at me with a serious expression.

"Shiori… that's the only thing you shouldn't say! He fought for your sake…! And in that battle, he ended up saving you! His feelings, his bravery, they're not something that the one who he saved should be denying!!"

"!!"

"You have to live his share as well! You have to live happily! For the one who fought for you… that's his last wish."

Father's words made me feel as if I had been smacked physically. With tears still streaming down my face, I looked at the unmoving Kitsune-san again. I slowly step towards him, and… clenched his cold hand.

"Kitsune-san… Kitsune-san…I'm fine, you see… because of you, I was saved…! Thank you… thank you…!"

I put together words, as I felt the hole in my chest get filled in ever-so-slightly.

Like that, by offering my thanks to Kitsune-san, I was forced to accept his death… It's probable that those who lose their precious people have to look forward in times like these. They accept death, and to make sure what that person left behind never dies out, they have to shoulder it.

And if they spend a long time shouldering the weight of that person's life, then slowly, that person's existence, his worth, his feelings will fill in that hole in my chest.

And so, this is my first step.

"…! … This is…"

In Kitsune-san's pocket was the Kitsune mask I had given him. Could it be that

he had carried it with him this whole time? If that's the case, I'm really… happy. I guess there was worth in picking it out so carefully… Kitsune-san, so you really liked it…

Ah, I see…

"I sure am an idiot… to notice it only after he's gone…"

Perhaps it was because he was so close. The time I spent with Kitsune-san, the time that I spent next to him was so comfortable. I was always by his side, so I never noticed it.

Kitsune-san, I…

"Goodbye Kitsune-san… I loved you…!"

… Had fallen in love with you.

◇

After some time passed, Kitsune-san was taken to the morgue. For various things like calling his family, and various paperwork, the Shinozaki family stayed in the hospital. Father and mother still seem to be worried about me, but… It's fine. If I keep crying forever, Kitsune-san will laugh at me.

While father and mother were talking to the doctor, I leaned back in the waiting room sofa. It's already dark outside, and it looks like quite a bit of time has passed since that happened.

"…"

Alone, I gazed at the ceiling as I took a deep breath. After crying for a bit, I feel quite relieved. It's not like I've completely accepted the fact of Kitsune-san's death, but I think I've recovered enough of myself to carry out my daily life.

“… What should I do from tomorrow?”

Now that I think about it, the people I went to school with, ate lunch with, and played with were all Kitsune-san, and I’ve been quite distanced from the others… this is awkward.

“Ehehe… but Kitsune-san would definitely say something like…”

…. If talking to them is hard, just have them talk to you. See, they talk to me every day, right?

In the end, rather than talk, it was more like they were badmouthing you, dude, but I guess it all depends on how you look at it. Tomorrow, if I go to school, I’ll try calling out to someone. Boys… yeah, I’ll refrain from talking to boys for a while. I mean, something like that did happen…

“Fufufu, Kitsune-san sure is amazing…”

Even after he died, the Kitsune-san inside of me continues to cheer me up. I really was stuck to him. Thinking back, it’s a bit funny.

After a while of waiting, a flustered young nurse started running towards the doctor. I wonder what it is.

“D-doctor! It’s about Naginata Kitsune-kun!”

“… Did something happen to him?”

“Hah… hah… Naginata Kitsune-kun’s body… it vanished!”

Eh?

“What!? What is this about…!?”

“I do not know… When I took my eyes off him for a second, his body disappeared without a trace!”

Kitsune-san disappeared?

“… Search for it. There’s no way a corpse can move around on its own… it must be somewhere! Search!”

“Y-yes!”

The nurse and the doctor run off with grim expressions. I looked over them in a daze.

At that time, within my heart, a strange premonition was born. Something beyond our comprehension is happening. Kitsune-san vanished, and this is definitely the start of something.

“Kitsune-san… where did you run off to…?”

At a volume low enough that no one could hear me, I whispered.

That was the instant that Kitsune disappeared from the world. And it was the instant where he crossed over to another, and started his second life.

◇ ◇ ◇

“Hahaha! This is nice. It leaves a nice feeling of pure love! This is why you humans are so interesting!”

White walls, floor and ceiling. No windows, or any furnishing. In a simple white room, a certain entity was happily smiling.

It was likely not human. It was in a humanistic form, but it was definitely something else, something out of the realm of common sense. Perhaps a concept, perhaps a law. Perhaps a lifeform, perhaps a spontaneity. Perhaps a

world, perhaps a god. A large unknown, certain omnipotent something.

An existence like that was roaring with laughter in an empty white room.

“Yeah, yeah, but I guess it’s a pity to have such an interesting human die off so easily. And right now, I’m a bit into happy endings. But perhaps in the next three minutes, I’ll develop a taste for bad endings too… and so, why don’t you give it another go… Kitsune-san?”

Her appearance was that of a woman. Her characteristic dark hair was tinted with a bit of blue, and it grew about to the end of her shoulder blades. Her blue eyes gave off a mischievous impression, as they seemed to stare off at a distant something.

Her white and slender, feminine fingers suddenly pointed in front of her. And at the end of her finger, something changed. No, it wasn’t a something… Kitsune’s fate changed.

Death flipped itself into life.

A life that had ended would continue.

“Now, in that world, what will you end up doing?”

It’s uncertain whether it was alright to call her a woman, but that woman… that entity happily swayed its body from side to side as it raised the edges of its mouth.

And there, another existence was revealed. What appeared was a single girl. She carried a tidy atmosphere around herself, and her appearance seemed to be around 14. Her straight silky black hair extended to the back of her knees.

“So you’re still in business.”

“Oh my… um, Michiko-chan, it’s been a while.”

“That isn’t my name.”

“But Sakiko-chan, you never tell me what it is.”

“It ain’t Sakiko either. And wait, you can just stick –ko onto anything and think it’ll work.”

“Oh, could it be that your name is foreign?”

The girl that appeared was, like the one who had been there from the start, no human. She was the messenger, or perhaps the underling of an existence like hers. If something ever went majorly wrong, she was the existence that the other one could place the blame on, saying, ‘The secretary did it all.’ That sort of position.

“More importantly, you arbitrarily went and did something again, didn’t you?”

“Yeah, I revived a single human, and sent him to another world.”

“Do you think something like that would be permitted?”

“Who’s going to stop it? I’m the strongest, and I’m quite important, you know.”

“Me.”

“I see…”

The female licked her lips as she stood up. The girl sensed something bad, and retreated a step backwards.

But for some reason, the female was already standing behind her. She grabbed the girl’s slender shoulders strongly. The female’s eyes let off a suspicious and dangerous light, as if she were a beast who had found its prey.

“W-what are you trying to do?”

“Nonono, I thought it was best if I applied for Sachiko-chan’s permission.”

“I ain’t Sachiko. … and again, what are… hya!?”

The female licked the girl’s ear. The sensation caused her to leap forward with all her might. Her face was flushed, and she grasped her ear as she stared at the woman.

“Now how about I ask your body directly for some permission?”

“Wha… what…!?”

“Thank you for the meal ♪.”

The female said that as she rushed at the girl. And for a little while after that, the girl’s screams echoed through the white space.

(Now then… Kitsune-kun, I’ve done this much for you, so… won’t you entertain me?) The female had an amused smile on her face as she thought to herself.

Chapter 5

Chapter 3: An Encounter With A Fairy

Inside of the forest, the air was clear nicely warm. When Kitsune tried scouting the area, there wasn't anything that could really be considered an obstacle. In an environment like that, Kitsune held the knife in one hand as he started the first day of his survival life.

The first action he took was to take care of the necessities to sustain a human lifestyle. The highest priority was placed on securing food.

To his luck, in one of the books he had read in his 6th year of elementary school, was a list of various edible plant life. Kitsune began using that info to its fullest, and he carefully perused the various plants growing at his feet as he proceeded forward.

(TL: Japanese Elementary is 1-6, Middle is 7-9, and High is 10-12)

"…? This is strange. After going this far in a place surrounded by nature, it's strange to have not found one or two edible plants by now…"

He whispered to himself.

Even more baffling, was that from what he could see, there wasn't a single plant he was familiar with. There weren't even any of those weeds that could be found any and everywhere. It's more like there was only vegetation he had never seen before.

With an unpleasant premonition, he tried working his brain out a bit, but still he didn't figure anything out. Thus, he decided to put those unproductive

thoughts aside.

“Hmm…”

Of the necessities of life, it seems that food would have to be gained through trial and error of whatever looked safe. But, he didn’t have the courage to test them, so until night fell, Kitsune continued to search for a place he could find shelter.

“A cave… is standard in the realm of stories, but there’s the possibility a bear or lion has already made a home there, so… approaching them carelessly would be foolish.”

To remember the information from some old book, he repeated the contents to himself and reaffirmed it. The places that would make for the best shelter would be by the waterside, with elements to let him hide himself, and furnishings to protect from the wind and rain. Even if there was no food, various lifeforms depend on water to live. Even if this was a place, land, country, or world unknown to Kitsune, that shouldn’t change.

Therefore, there should be some source of water nearby, some lake, pond, or river, and Kitsune made searching for it his first course of action.

◇

I walked a considerable distance. I kept my direction with the light of the sun and the shadow below my feet. Anyways, the first direction I headed was south. There wasn’t really any reason, I just kinda thought the word south carried a bit of a watery impression. Yep, kinda… The same reason I was bullied, a reason appropriate for a pubescent young man like me.

When finding water, I think the first thing you have to do is look at the trees and soil.

The trees live by taking water from the earth. The closer they are to water, the amount of water they take in changes in regards to their proximity to a water source.

Next, the earth is observed for similar reasons. Before overflowing, water travels through the ground. The closer one is to a water source, the higher the moisture level of the dirt in the area, and you should be able to tell, to some extent, by touch, or by observing growths related to moisture levels. Apparently.

Yeah, that sounds a tad bit obvious. Even if I read it in a book, it's something I would have probably thought up even without the book.

"But even I'm finding this strange… I don't see any plants I recall as edible, and even the weeds are ones I've never seen before. What's more, Japan shouldn't have an expanse of forest like this. Most importantly, I should be dead."

The fact that I'm alive is baffling in itself, and the wounds I have received have vanished with not a trace left behind. Something impossible is happening to me in an impossible fashion. Could it be, that there's a slight possibility that a possibility that I don't want to think about is…

This isn't the world I lived in…?

"… Otherworldly reincarnation? Ahaha, what sort of story development is that? How idiotic."

Ahaha, nope, not happening. Impossible, no chance. That stuff's only permissible in cheap fiction. Or in Chuuni fantasies. Let's just say that I was transported to some other country in some shape or form.

"… For reals?"

I had just reached satisfaction with an answer, but that possibility was destroyed in an instant. When I turned around, there was a single beast. No, more than a beast, that's a monster, isn't it?

Its appearance was that of a black haired, wolf-like creature, but its size was polar bear level. It had blood-shot red eyes, and I saw sleek fangs in its growling mouth, and most importantly, something impossible for a normal lifeform…

there’s fire overflowing from its throat.

“Ahaha, yep. It’s another world.”

But this isn’t something to be startled about. It’s nothing different from the normal imaginative delusions I occasionally daydream, and I do fine in those. Well, never thought it’d actually happen though.

Even so, another world… I guess I’ll have to accept it. This situation, and all the other otherworldly-ish factors. I can’t deny them.

『Grrrrrrr……!』

Even if I say that, the first thing I’ll have to do is get out of this situation, right? As a weapon, I have the knife which is more or less just mental support. I don’t get the feeling this toy would be able to take down that monster. This is too short, isn’t it? The moment I get within four paces of it, it’ll have moved, and that large frame… I’ll bet it has quite a bit of power. I get the feeling that one hit from it will kill me.

“Okay, let’s run. I don’t really want to die.”

I turn and immediately start running.

『GYAU!!』

Wow, I heard the sound of it kicking off the ground behind me. God dammit, he’s totally following me, isn’t he. What’s more, he’s definitely closing the distance. I’m not that athletic to begin with, and there’s no way I can beat a high spec beast meant to have abilities exceeding humanity.

“!”

A black shadow passes by me at a frightening pace, as that beast circles in front of me. This is quite bad. At this time, in a story… a Hero, or a Rival, or some

legendary adventurer would come help, or the protagonist would awaken some latent ability, but that's impossible.

Reality is non-fiction. Such optimistic situations don't come about that easily.

"Shiori-chan…"

But I promised… when I return, we're going on an amusement park date. So I won't die, or at the very least, one death is more than enough.

One knife. No fighting experience. No will to fight. But…

… I guess I'll give it a shot. As long as there's the slightest chance of victory, I won't give up!

I could say something cool like that.

"Come at me, damn beast."

I'll give it a go… I don't want to become a man who can't fulfill a single promise.

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Kitsune and the monster. Of the two, the monster definitely had the faster movements. Its four legs nimbly kicked the ground, as it drew near the boy. It brandished its claws and swiped at Kitsune's neck.

But Kitsune was somehow able to keep up with that move, and block the claws with his knife.

『GRAAAAH!!』

"Uu… gu…!?"

However, his arm didn't have the strength to contain the impact. Kitsune was sent flying, knife and all. His legs left the ground as he flew sideways. He collided with a nearby tree.

"Gu… Owow… just how much power does that thing have?"

『Grrrr…!』

The knife had cleanly snapped in two from the hilt. His only weapon was immediately destroyed. He no longer had any means of opposition.

"So I get game over on my first day of survival… there's a limit to unfairness…"

Kitsune talked to himself as he leaned against the tree he had forcefully become acquainted with, and squatted. He had used the knife to defend, but it didn't really do anything. His back had made some ominous sounds upon colliding, and a single high-school student who didn't even lift wouldn't be able to stand any more attacks like that.

Just what sort of bodies do those manga and anime protagonists have? Kitsune pondered this as he looked at the beast.

"Good grief… I may be strong against pain, but there should be a limit to the amount of damage he deals out…"

『GRAAAAAAAAAAA!!!!』

"…"

Kitsune tried to crack jokes to put himself at ease, but the monster's roar make him swallow his words. He thought he would rely on the slight chance of victory, but impossible things remain impossible. He couldn't even ward off the first attack. There was no way a frail human would be able to beat a monster like this.

"But still……! I can't really… give up yet…!"

He stood up on his unstable legs. He dropped the knife's hilt and raised his hands. This was merely desperation. He expected a miracle to come in the very end and tried to go on without giving up. But that was the best decision he could make.

"If you think you can kill me, just try it."

To the end, only his aura of authority was top notch. The beast leisurely walked up to him and lifted its large claws. Kitsune didn't close his eyes and didn't look away. He didn't give up on life.

『GRAAAAAAAAAAH!!!』

It was at that moment.

In front of Kitsune and the monster, something flashed. Both of their visions were clouded by pure white light, and the beast's lowering arm was shot down.

『GYAAH!!?』

The beast raised a loud cry and took a large leap backwards. Seeing black smoke rising from its own front leg, it kept vigil to the light as it… retreated.

As the beast disappeared from view, Kitsune let out a sigh of relief, as his behind dropped to the ground. He no longer had the power to stand.

"… And what was that light? … I would be screwed if it were an enemy…"

Kitsune stared at a glimmering object in the sky overhead, as he muttered it in a daze. The glowing object lowered itself all the way to his eye level.

"Yo!"

It burst, and from within, the doll-sized form of a human accompanied by a

child’s voice emerged.

Long black hair and flaxen eyes. Sea-blue garments, and on its small back were a pair of half-transparent wings.

Fairy, was the only word that could be used to describe it. Its appearance was like that of a small Shinozaki Shiori.

Kitsune was dumb-founded, but the fairy continued to approach without a hint of wariness. And after circling in the air a few times, she let out a pure smile.

“Hello, how do you do!? What’s your name?”

The fairy continued on despite his injuries. It was definitely out of place, and the fairy continued to fail to read the mood. Kitsune stared at the fairy, or more specifically, at its nostalgic form. He opened his eyes wide.

“Hmm? Huh? What’s wrong? Did I say something strange?”

“Ah… no, that’s not it, but…”

“Really? Good!”

It doesn’t really matter, I guess, thought Kitsune. It seems that the fairy had a short attention span. For now, since his name was asked, he decided to answer. A fairy appeared. Could this get any more otherworldly? He thought as he opened his mouth.

“My name is Naginata Kitsune… it would be nice if you called me Kitsune-san.”

“Interesting name! Kitsune-san, right! Nice ta meetcha!”

The fairy spoke before letting off a pure smile once more.

Chapter 6

Chapter 4: The Fairy, The Wolf, The Spider, And The Fox

For now, as they had exchanged greetings, Kitsune tried pulling up his body, which was still as damaged as ever. He leaned himself against a tree to stand up and held his side as he searched for the remnants of the knife. Regardless of the sort of world this was, even if a knife's broken, a blade's still a blade. He thought that a chance to use it may present itself sooner or later.

The fairy looking down on him from the sky tilted her head to the side and approached him.

"Hey, hey, Kitsune-san, are you hurt?"

"Yeah, kinda… a few of my ribs have probably snapped… then there's the blow I took to the back, I guess."

"Hmm… then I'll heal it!"

"Eh?"

On the fairy's proposal, Kitsune turned his eyes towards her. She began spinning in a circle around him while both of her arms remained pointed at his body; thereupon, the flash of light that had accompanied her when she first appeared burst out of her hands, enveloping him.

Kitsune tried to put up some resistance to the unfamiliar phenomenon, but the damage inflicted on him was too great, so he couldn't move properly. But the

effect came about soon enough.

“This is… my wounds are healing?”

The cuts and bruises plaguing his body were disappearing, bit by bit. The blow to his back, and the broken ribs, slowly reverted to normal along with the pain.

It didn’t take the boy very long to understand that the light was『Magic』. ‘As expected of another world,’ he thought as he entrusted his body to it.

“…… Yep, that should do it!”

The fairy clapped her hands together and formed a smile as she spoke. At the same time, the light faded, and Kitsune had experienced a full recovery. He tried twisting his body and jumping as a test, but he felt no difficulty in those actions. If it’s like this, then he probably wouldn’t be done in by that passing beast too quickly.

“… So, who are you, and where are you from?”

“Me? Let’s see… no idea~! Ahaha.”

On Kitsune’s question, the fairy spun and laughed.

Unable to understand what, ‘I don’t know’ was supposed to mean, Kitsune tilted his head. Seeing him like that, the fairy folded her arms and opened her mouth.

“Well, you see, I was just born right now! From that mask.”

“Mask…?”

What the Fairy pointed to was the fox mask on his head. Upon removing it, and looking it over, Kitsune only became even more confused.

The reason being that that mask was something sent here alongside him from his own world. From the point of view of this world, it was a real『Otherworldly Item』. No matter how much of a fantasy world this was, with fairies and magic, and what not, his former world was a one of concrete science without such things. There's no way the very incarnation of fantasy, a fairy, could be born from it.

But this world's concept of a fairy wasn't related to such differences in worlds.

"Well, you see, with fairies, there are different types… if you do the most basic division, there are two large groups!"

The fairy thrust out her small hand in a peace sign. As he grumbled to himself about how this sounded like it would take a while, he conceded to listen to the explanation of the fairy with the appearance of Shinozaki Shiori.

"The larger one is the fairies born from nature, called the Natural Variety, apparently! There are many different categories in the Natural Variety, but I don't know the specifics!"

"Is that something you should be proud of?"

At the fairy who stuck her chest out and overflowed with confidence as she confessed her own ignorance, Kitsune could do nothing but offer a Tsukkomi. But without minding that, she continued on with her exposition. About the one she was a part of, the second variant of fairy.

"I'm part of the other type. A fairy born from human feelings! We're called the Ideological Variety, and we're not that common in this world! Just seeing one of us over your life is supposed to be super lucky! That's why Kitsune-san is a lucky boy! Good job!"

"Yeah… right."

According to her, the majority of this world's fairies were of the Natural Variety. Regardless of the variety, while there were individual differences, they

generally looked like small humans with wings. As such, the two Varieties were difficult to tell apart by appearance alone.

In this world, the number of Ideological Fairies numbered less than a few dozen. In Kitsune's former world, they would be something of an endangered species. These girls were born of a human's strong feelings, or more specifically, items that have received strong feelings, and therefore, they usually possess strong powers.

However, the amount of emotion necessary for an Ideological to be born is absurd, and unless they're strong enough for one to bet their life on, nothing will be born. For that reason, their numbers are scarce.

On the other hand, the Natural Variety can be born as long as nature exists. No, it's more that there are as many Natural Fairies as there are nature. As such, they can exist in large numbers. In exchange, unlike the other type, they generally don't have that much power. It can be said that the Ideological are the『Quality』, and the Natural are the『Quantity』.

Natural Fairies have no lifespan. If nature were to die out, then they would die, but as long as even a little remained, there would be no death for them.

But Ideological Fairies were different. They had no set lifespan, but if the intermediary through which they were born were to be destroyed, they would die. Therefore, it was rare for them to separate from that item.

"To summarize, if that mask breaks, I'll disappear, so I'll follow Kitsune-san!"

"Ah, I see."

The explanation over, the fairy said that with a bright smile, and Kitsune nodded easily.

Hearing the explanation on Ideological Fairies, he felt it reassuring that one who possessed great power was to be his ally, but as long as he didn't know where exactly he was, it didn't change the fact that he was abandoned in the

middle of nowhere in an unfamiliar world. He didn't know what it was he should do.

First, he wanted to meet a human he could talk with, but since coming to the world, the only things he'd met so far were a polar bear level monster, and a fairy. It left him quite uneasy.

"… For now, I guess we'll keep moving forward. Um… what's your name?"

"None!"

"… None?"

"I was just born, you know? I'm a baby, you know? There's no way I have a name!"

Kitsune pondered to himself just how this fairy could be so blatantly hopeless, as he stared off into the distance towards another day. But her words were sound. There was no way a freshly born baby would have a name.

(TL: This is pretty much a saying that means he's staring out in a fit of escapism.)

"If it's necessary, then it's alright if Kitsune-san gives me a name."

"… Well, it's inconvenient if you don't have one. Let's see, something a bit otherworldly… let's go with Finia."

"Nice sound to it! What's it from?"

"Just kinda felt like it."

"Wah, so my name was one you just kinda felt… I like it!"

The fairy… no, Finia, broke into another smile after a short period of despondence. It seems she was the possessor of quite the brash personality. That part of her slightly resembled Shinozaki Shiori, causing Kitsune to give a slight smile.

He got himself back together, and began to move towards his original goal, the acquisition of life's necessities, once more. With the mask on his head again, and the fairy Finia perched on his right shoulder, he walked forward with a faint smile on his face.

"By the way, Finia-chan, was that thing you used to heal my injuries magic?"

While thinking of how nice it was to have someone to talk to, he tried asking. He had just experienced Fairies, Beasts, and other fantasy-esque factors, so he wanted to secure a means to protect his own body.

"That's right! Healing Magic! Usually you nead a spell incantation to use magic, but Ideological Fairies can use it without! Hehe!"

"Hmm… can I do something like that too?"

"The output likely changes based on the person, but as long as you have Mana, you can probably do it, you know?"

Hearing that, Kitsune asked whether there was a means to check if he had Mana, but Finia didn't know. It seems she had the sense to use magic from the moment she was born, so she had no idea how to use magic in itself. It was like a human knowing how to move their hands.

"Yeah… Hey, Finia-chan, could you go up into the sky to see if there's a river or village around?"

"No problem!"

Understanding that he wasn't going to become able to use magic anytime soon, he put the matter aside.

So, he put Finia's wings to use. If there was a river, then he would be in luck. A village, even more so.

"So!? Was there anything!?"

Kitsune raised his voice to the fairy who had risen quite high. There was the chance the beast would find out his location, but he wanted to get the information from the sky quickly.

Finia spun in the air as she descended. Lowering her back onto Kitsune's shoulder, she smiled as she pointed in a direction.

"It was quite far, but I saw a large town! There's a river on the way too!"

"Thanks for the good news, Finia-chan."

"Yep!"

That information was the best news to the boy. The fact that there was a river was one thing, but the large town was good luck. If it was that big, then there would definitely be people, and he would be able to gather some necessary otherworldly information.

With somewhat lighter steps, he proceeded in the direction of Finia's finger. Some monster may have heard his voice, so it was best to change locations swiftly.

"Even so… will Japanese work in another world?"

"I doubt it."

"Eh? Even when I can talk with you just fine?"

"I'm, you know, that. I was born from Japanese goods! In a sense, I'm a new

breed of fairy, right? Something like that.”

Eh… a troubled expression came up. But, well, the fact that a human settlement was there was much more reassuring than being in a forest when he didn’t know when he would die. Anyways, moving forward was important.

“By the way, Finia-chan, about how far is far?”

“Based on your world, about 30km, I guess?”

“That’s a distance to distance one’s spirit…”

He stared out towards a brighter future again. If he kept walking without rest, he would probably reach it in a day or two, but as a frail high school boy, Kitsune didn’t have such stamina. Finia could probably fly there, but she decided to follow him.

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After walking for a while, Kitsune found a different beast from before in front of him. Rather than a beast, this one looked like a bug. Its appearance was that of a spider, whose height exceeded 2m. Honestly, he didn’t want to have to deal with it. If possible, he wanted to pass peacefully.

Luckily, spiders didn’t use their sense of smell to catch prey. While it had eight eyes, as long as he hid and stayed a distance, there wouldn’t be a problem.

“Uwah… It’s creepy.”

“Kitsune-san’s also creepy, right? You’ve finally found a comrade!”

“You casually throw out some heart-stabbing words, don’t you? And wait, Finia-chan, you have knowledge from my world?”

“I have memory from when you first got that mask! You always held it close, so

I remember quite a bit! Like how your notes were turned to charcoal during class, and how your chair went missing, only to be found destroyed, and how your shoulder was accidentally punched by a passerby with splendid timing!”

“I see…”

He could have gotten off without an explanation of his own world, but should he feel happy that he didn’t have to waste time explaining anything himself, or feel conflicted that someone with Shiori’s face was happily divulging the contents of his bullying? It was a peculiar feeling.

“For now… let’s try sneaking past that spider.”

“Yay, it’s like hide-and-seek!”

They hid in the thickets as Kitsune waited for the spider to pass by. He gazed at its movements as he concentrated as not to make a sound.

But there was one tapping his shoulder.

“Shh… quiet.”

Kitsune turned his attention from the large spider, and spoke to the one behind him. But without minding his words, it kept tapping him.

“What are y… eh~…”

As he turned his head, he found the wolf from before behind him. In the front, the spider, and behind, the wolf. It truly was a desperate pinch. And wait, he was lucky to have gotten off with nothing but his shoulder tapped so far.

“Finia-chan.”

“What?”

“Can you defeat this wolf-san?”

“I more or less specialize in offensive magic, dude.”

“You were that sort of character?”

Finia was messing around, so Kitsune tsukkomied while his inner thoughts were in turmoil. She smiled as she raised her small hands at the wolf, and in the next instant…

“Grah!?”

… The wolf was blown away. From Kitsune’s point of view, it looked like Finia’s hands let off a flash for a moment, and the wolf was sent flying by it. He had no idea of exactly what had happened.

“Fufu… do you wanna know what I just did?”

“Yes, I want to know.”

“I sent him off with light magic!”

“Uwah, just as I thought.”

But she couldn’t be any more reliable. He felt it a little shameful to depend on the small existence 1/10 his size, but if she was going to protect him when he didn’t have any power of his own, he didn’t have the time to mind his own appearance.

“GISHAAAAAAAH!”

The light didn’t go unnoticed by the spider. The wolf still appeared to be able to move, so they were in quite a tight spot. Kitsune looked back and forth between the two monsters, and let out a sigh. So this is what it means to be stuck between a rock and a hard place. He offered a carefree thought, even in

this situation.

“Good grief, this is the worst. For now, come at me! Finia-chan’ll take you guys on!”

And like that, Kitsune let out some shameful provocations.

Chapter 7

Chapter 5: The Day They Survived

"For now, let's run Finia-chan!"

"Eh? We're running?"

Sandwiched between two monsters, with Finia being the only one able to fight, Kitsune wasn't foolish enough to fail to see their chances of victory, and it's not like he was a natural born fighter or anything. The conclusion he came to was that the most favorable measure to take in the situation was 'Flight.' Both 'Fight' and 'Flight' differ by but a letter, and both are strategies to take pride in.

"So, if you equate the positives of…!"

"Kitsune-san, your legs are slow!"

"Is that something you should say while flying?"

Kitsune and Finia fled. Of course, the laws of the jungle weren't so kind as to let the prey the predators found in the barren forest escape. Both monsters scrambled to rush after the two. The pressure coming from behind was fearsome, and while Kitsune always had the awareness that his legs were on the slower side, he felt slower than ever before.

As such, he was forced to ponder as he ran. How to defeat those two monsters… or to get them out of the way.

"Hah… hah…! At a time like this, in stories, would this be the moment when a

really strong adventurer or hero shows up…!?”

“The probability of that is abysmal! You’re acting like an effeminate man whose about to be dumped!”

“What sort of ‘Goldon Bombor’ do you think I am?”

(TL: Golden Bomber is a visual kei ‘air’ rock group that acts out relatively dramatic performances to music done by professionals. They cannot play instruments. They admit so themselves. It’s usually parody. As members of the Visual Kei Era, they are quite effeminate in appearance at least.)

Despite their conversation, the situation was urgent. To Kitsune, Finia’s cheerfulness was actually quite appreciated.

He glanced behind him and snuck a peek at the two beasts. Based on what he had seen, since the two were aiming for a human like him, they were carnivorous. And as a bug and a wolf, their races should be quite different.

“… Then… perhaps I can?”

Kitsune thought about the monsters, their surroundings, what his team had on hand, and what he could do with all the information.

“… Finia-chan.”

“What is it, Kitsune-san!?”

“… There’s something I’d like to ask.”

A faint smile floated on Kitsune’s face as he said that.

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… The two monsters lost sight of the prey they were chasing.

Just as Kitsune anticipated, they were both carnivorous beasts, and in this world, they were both lifeforms classified as『Magic Beasts』. If a normal human were to run into them, then that person would be forced to resign himself to death, and even the weakest of Magic Beasts were able to devour dozens of humans individually. Among such monsters, the Wolf and Spider were around mid-tier.

The wolf was known as a『Vargr Wolf』, and from a special organ within its body, it could give birth to high-heated flames. Its defining trait was its fire attack. From said trait, its skin and innards developed fearsome resistance to heat, and it could swim leisurely even through bubbling magma.

The spider was an『Arachne』, and based on the specimens that had been discovered thus far, it's max body-span was 5 meters. As a spider, it could use the adhesive threads produced within its body to capture targets or could personally run after them itself. Its bite held a paralyzing poison, so after being caught once, it would be difficult to escape.

This goes without saying, but the two were not allies. They were mutual enemies gunning for the same food. Why is it that when in such close proximity the two have yet to start fighting, you ask? That is because both of them had securing food on their minds as their first priority.

After killing the prey that was Kitsune to prevent him from running away, they would fight and kill one another over him.

But now they had lost said food stock. It was inevitable that they would take out the irritation from that on the enemy before their eyes.

"Grrrrrrr…!!"

"Krrrrr…!!"

The two monsters, each with frames surpassing two meters, glared at one another. They kicked the ground and collided… and it was at that moment.

“An opening.”

They heard a voice. Before they could turn to the direction of its source, the Magic Beasts were sent flying horizontally. They looked at the location where they once were, and saw a cut tree swinging like a pendulum. They understood that was what had impacted them from the side.

Body bodies corrected their postures in midair and landed.

But…

“You’re full of openings!”

A small fairy was waiting for them: The Ideological Fairy, Finia. She held up her small hands and activated the magic she had been saving up. This time, it wasn’t a low grade shockwave magic, but a high class fire one. It didn’t need a chant, but it needed a bit of charging to use. That magic’s name was…

“… Fairy Torch.”

The magic’s name was called out, as if in song. Its effect birthed an insignificant small white flame. Its appearance was neither flashy nor scary in the slightest, but that small white light that looked as if it would go out in the wind at any moment possessed a considerable power.

And of all things, Finia sent the flame towards the Vargr Wolf. Even though this monster boasted the greatest of flame resistances.

“GAAAAAAAAAH!!”

And that’s exactly why the Vargr chose not to dodge. This magic’s scary aspect wasn’t its output, but its fleeting appearance that contradicted that power.

As evidence, having tried swallowing that small, white light, the wolf…

“You fell for it, stupid dog!!”

As Finia voiced her opinion, the Vargr burst from the inside, along with a white light. It continued to burn white, as blood and cuts of flesh splattered around and stained the ground.

“Well, then… so organisms from this world bleed red as well.”

While his body was bathed in the scattering blood, Kitsune muttered to himself. Red blood drips down the Kitsune Mask on his head, and a faint smile emerges on his face. His eyes were directed at the Spider.

“Ka…rrrroo…..!?”

That was the first moment the Spider sensed any danger from the boy. It didn’t feel pressure, and it didn’t smell that it was standing before someone stronger than itself. With Kitsune remaining the weak presence he always was, the spider continued to feel nothing but fear. Of course, it’s not like Kitsune had any trump card. It’s not like he was doing anything menacing. He was merely standing there, getting his body bathed in the blood spurted.

But since before coming to this world, Kitsune had always possessed a certain nature.

That was his『Repulsing Nature』.

Even by humans of the same race, he was always excluded for some reason. But it’s not like there was any particular reason. Without any reason, it just kinda turned out like that. In this world, that apparently applied to Magic Beasts as well.

The Arachne was creeped out by the boy standing before its eyes. It felt a strange from this unfamiliar presence.

“Now then, looks like it’s your turn next.”

Kitsune's body swayed as he pointed his finger at the spider. And with just that action, the spider retreated a step. It thought, if it only got closer and bit him, it would win. It was confident in that. Even so, it couldn't approach. No, it didn't want to approach him.

It hadn't been like this until now. Up until now, Kitsune was registered as nothing but weak prey. But the Wolf that could put up a close fight with the spider had been killed all to easily, had he not? That made him more than enough of a threat. It couldn't deny the possibility that it would die if it handled the situation poorly.

As such, the spider made a decision by instinct. It was, by nature, a cautious animal that would hide itself as long as it wasn't certain it would win. It valued itself. As long as it couldn't understand Kitsune's existence, it chose not to approach him so easily.

"Krrrrrrrrrr…!"

Retreat. The spider expelled adhesive strings out of its rear as it crossed trees to retreat. Kitsune didn't give chase. He didn't really understand why, but if the spider was going to retreat, he had no need to chase it.

"… Whew, thanks, Finia-chan."

"It's fine! Even so, I'm surprised you were able to survive with that hole-ridden mess of a plan! It's a miracle!"

The red-dyed Kitsune raised a bitter smile at the fairy's words.

Kitsune's plan was as follows. Attach a log cut down with Finia's magic to one of the vines hanging over the place to send at the following monsters and halt their advance. Then leave the rest to Finia. Honestly, he didn't even know what magic she would use.

For now, all's well that ends well, but if the log didn't hit, if Finia's magic failed to kill, if the Spider didn't step back, the slightest of mistakes would have made

the situation take a turn for the worse.

“Hey, I’m no Zhuge Liang. I don’t have that sort of wisdom in my head, and it’s something I came up with on the spot to overcome the situation, so of course it would be full of holes.”

“Uwah, just how useless of a human are you, Kitsune-san!”

“I’m starting to wonder just where you picked up that personality to spew venom with a smile.”

“I’m me! This is my originality!”

Kitsune smiled. It seems he’d begun to understand this fairy’s personality.

And looking at himself, he let out a sigh. He was covered in blood. At this rate, his prided uniform would be unusable.

“For now, let’s aim for that river you were talking about earlier.”

“Yeah! Umm… that way!”

Finia floated high into the air again and pointed. Kitsune began walking in that direction, and Finia descended to his level to float by his side. Her bright smile sorta brightened up the atmosphere.

“Yeah… This bloody smell is…”

Kitsune said that as a faint smile arose on his face.

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After walking a while and arriving at the river, they took a small break. Unexpectedly, while the city was still far, the river wasn’t, so it didn’t take long to reach. Kitsune had washed his blazer and pants in the river and was in the

middle of drying them. He sat cross-legged in the trunks and T-shirt he wore under them. Perhaps she was tired, but Finia went back inside of Kitsune's mask and wouldn't come out.

"… And wait, so she can go back into that… in human terms, it's like reentering a mother's stomach… if you think along those lines… I guess it's a Fantasy?"

The fact that the Mask he received for his birthday had turned into the greatest of fantasy goods left him with some deep thoughts as he felt the day slowly coming to an end. He gazed up at the sky that had begun to turn dark.

The events that had transpired played back to him.

He died in his previous world and made his best friend cry.

When he thought he was dead, he ended up in another world.

He was attacked by a large wolf and met Finia.

He was simultaneously attacked by a wolf and a spider, but somehow survived it.

Having reached the river, he was still alive, one way or another.

Today, he seemed to have been treading close to death the whole way. Even though he had already died, he was still so close to it. Even if he survived today, he had no idea what would become of the next day. And the more he thought about it, the more his motivation left him.

"… This may not be the best time to be thinking about how to get back to my previous world."

Kistune murmured as such. He slipped on his slightly damp uniform. After hanging the mask on his head again, he began looking for a place to hide. The waterside is the rest stop of life, and if he stayed there, there was a higher

possibility of him being killed off by that spider, or some other Demon Beast. If he didn't find somewhere to conceal his body, then he'd likely die in his sleep.

"Hah… It's getting dark… I'm more of a night person, so it's fine, but this is the first time I'm spending it in the middle of a forest."

He let out one sigh after another.

Chapter 8

Chapter 6: It's Been One Thing After Another

"… Whew, Time For A Break…"

Walking along the riverbank, Kitsune spotted a cave. He searched inside, but there were no Magical Beasts, or any signs that this was something's dwelling. As the sky had become completely black, a place like this would be quite reassuring against other beast attacks.

Kitsune propped himself against the wall, and sighed. He had spent the entire day walking or running, and having a place to rest was a considerable load off of his mental fatigue.

"… Another world, is it… It's still quite a mystery as to why I ended up here, but I guess it's not that rare of a tale."

No matter how you look at it, it wasn't that common, but Kitsune had concluded that thinking hard about it wouldn't get anywhere, so he shifted his thought process.

He began pondering whether he had been granted any special powers. Normally, in developments where someone is reincarnated, or trips into another world, getting cheat-like powers is standard. He started to wonder whether or not he had something like that.

"The most common one is… being able to check my Status, right?"

He had thrown the words out quite casually. But a change came about the moment he finished his line. Within Kitsune's head, an overly vivid computer-

screen-like display surfaced.

“!”

On it, the following was written.

◇Status◇

Name: Naginata Kitsune Gender: Male Lv1

Strength: 10

Stamina: 30

Resilience: 100

Dexterity: 10

Magic: 20

Title:『Otherworlder』

Skill:『Pain Resistance Lv8』『Eerie Constitution』『World Language Translator』『Status Discernment』

Innate Skill: ???

PT Member: Finia(Fairy) ◇

“… Quite standard, yet again.”

In the standard and wholesome Light Novels he had read in his previous world, those reincarnators were usually able to check their equipment and statuses. It

appears that Kitsune was no exception, as he was bequeathed with that power as well.

Seeing that it wasn't just the world, but him himself that had become a fantasy, Kitsune was filled with a slight feeling of excitement and dejection. For now, from his status discernment ability, Kitsune received a bit of happiness, and a bit of despair.

The happiness was that he had the『World Language Translator』Skill. It was likely a Skill that would allow him to converse with the people that lived in this strange world. And as long as he had it, he should be able to talk with those of his own world just fine as well.

His despair came from the fact that there wasn't a single thing he could use as a weapon in his entire Status. Like this, he was only able to see his personal specs. There was no meaning to it.

By the way, when he looked at the mask, and tried checking its status, Finia's Stat Screen popped up.

◇Status◇

Name: Finia

Gender: Female Lv1

Strength: 120

Stamina: 500

Resilience: 120

Dexterity: 150

Magic: 1500

Title:『Fairy of Unrequited Love』

Skill:『Light Magic Lv3』『Mana Recovery Lv2』『Healing Magic Lv3』

『Fire Magic Lv3』

Innate Skill: ???

PT Member: ◎Naginata Kitsune ◇

Every Single one of Finia's Stats exceeded his. But her Magic Stat definitely wasn't normal. Even if she looked reliable, he experienced a feeling of loss, and some other complicated emotions. Looking at it, it seems Finia's Strength was 12 times the amount of a normal high school boy, so Kitsune thought about conducting a few experiments to use as a standard of measurement later.

"Now then… I guess I'll sleep… I am tired."

After confirming the status display had disappeared from his mind, he surrendered himself to the rapidly approaching deep sleep, and leisurely let his consciousness fade.

(Ah… this feels like when I died. I see, so it really is something like sleep…)

Chapter 9

Chapter 7: Kitsune's Ability

I'm an Ideological, a special sort of fairy born from Human Emotion.

The feelings harbored by my parent, the emotions strong enough to create me were directed at Naginata Kitsune… Kitsune-san. Thus, I am a Fairy of Unrequited Love. Strong feelings for another, a fairy born of the highest, and most sacred of emotions. Those feelings reside within me as my core.

That's why, like my parent, the girl that I've never met, I like Kitsune-san. To be more specific, only a day has passed since I first met him, but at a glance, I was certain that Kitsune-san was the beloved one of that girl. I mean, the moment I saw him, I started to like him, so I'm sure that's the case.

Kitsune-san is weak. Even if I'm supposed to possess great power, I was just born, and I wouldn't even reach the ankles of those who are truly strong. Yet he remains much weaker than me. If we were to fight, I'll bet I wouldn't even have to use magic to win.

That why if I'm not there to protect him, I'm sure he'll die instantly. He's frail, and fragile, and feeble, an existence like a faint candle that would go out if you only blew in its direction.

In the forest, Kitsune-san was desperate to survive. From his appearance and behavior, you can't feel any impatience or anxiety, but his eyes were always filled with the desperation to overcome adversity. Assaulted by the wolf, he didn't give up hope. Confronted by the giant spider, he stood his ground. The form of him desperately grasping for something to cling to in order to survive was extremely unsightly, and pathetic.

Trying to take that boy's life, yet another Magic Beast emerged. In a surprise attack, they attacked Kitsune-san, and he became unable to move from the poison. What appeared was a group of bees. Their wings buzzed in a discomforting frequency as they approached.

… I've got to protect him.

My mind was buried in thoughts like that. I can't let Kitsune-san die. I mean, he's… alone. No one's watching. No one knows. No one cares. By himself, dying in solitude… I won't allow it.

At that moment, Kitsune hid his mask (my life) behind his back. For the action he forced his paralyzed body to carry out to be protecting me, I can be nothing but happy. That thoughts within me directed at him begin to swell up. Enough that it felt as if my chest was going to burst.

… If it's now, I feel like I can do anything.

I had moved before I noticed it. I flapped my prided wings, and assaulted the bees drawing close. I can't let Kitsune-san die.

"… Fairy Torch!"

It's a magic that usually requires some charging, but the current me can deploy it instantly and activate it. Ideological Fairies are ones born of strong emotions… as such, when the fairy itself harbors those same feelings that made it, they can display even stronger powers.

A small and white flame annihilates several bees altogether. Not even ash is left behind, as they completely burn up and scatter before touching the ground.

"Surprise attack? Perfect! Now come at me bugs! I, Bishojo Fairy Finia-chan will take take on every single one of you!"

The feelings of affection I have for Kitsune-san are my driving force. These feelings make me stronger!

◇ ◇ ◇

Even Kitsune could understand that Finia had left his side to commence combat with the bees. It was because he could see the flashes of the fire, and hear the sounds. Using fire in the middle of a forest had the risk of starting a bushfire, but if she didn't, they would probably die, so Smoky be damned.

But in a situation like this, being separated by Finia invited a bit of anxiety. Unluckily, Kitsune had been inflicted with paralysis, and he couldn't move a single finger. If he were to take a similar sting from another bee…

There was a possibility the paralysis would affect his muscles or nervous system, and induce cardiac arrest or a heart attack.

From what he saw, there were a few dozen bees. Based on his knowledge, Kitsune knew that bees generally operated in a wide scope centered around their hive. As such, it isn't that rare to see them working individually.

But with that many of them grouped together, it was quite possible that they were somewhere near their hive. If that were the case, the noises from Finia's battle might work to stimulate them, meaning it wasn't just the bees here now… in the worst case, there was the possibility that a large army may be dispatched directly from the hive.

"… Guh… dammit, I can't move…"

He tried struggling, but of course, the paralysis was still in effect. Even if his brain continued to send the signals for his muscles to move, his convulsing sinew was unable to put it into effect.

Seeing if there was anything he had to break down the situation, Kitsune desperately brought up his status screen.

◇Status◇

Name: Naginata Kitsune

Gender: Male Lv1《Paralyzed》

Strength: 10

Stamina: 30

Resilience: 100

Dexterity: 10

Magic: 20

Title:『Otherworlder』

Skill:『Pain Resistance Lv8』『Eerie Constitution』『World Language Translator』『Status Discernment』

Innate Skill: ???

PT Member: Finia(Fairy)

◇

But there had been no change to it. A paralysis icon appeared to indicate his status abnormality, but other than that, it was exactly the same as before.

“Dammit…!”

He gritted his teeth. No plans formed in his mind.

And next to his ear, the worst possible sound came.

… Bzzzzz…

The buzzing of wings. Kitsune had his back to a large tree, and it wasn't coming from behind. From right in front him. Not where Finia was fighting, but right before his eyes.

He tried directing his eyes upwards, and there, he saw a lone bee floating around. The conical stinger attached into its abdomen had its tip pointed at him.

"… Status."

Kitsune desperately took a glance at the Bee's Status.

◇Status◇

Name: Palzy Signal

Race: Bug-Type Magic Beast Lv5

Strength: 3

Stamina: 50

Resilience: 15

Dexterity: 60

Magic: 0

Skill:『Paralyzing Needle』『Colony Mobilization』

◇

This bee's Dexterity was higher than Kitsune's. It's likely that the disparity was

one that even if Kitsune could attack, he wouldn't be able to hit it.

But it seems its strength was only a measly 3. That sounded off. 3 meant that it was weaker than his average-level human strength. If that was the case, then what was it that allowed its needle to pierce through him when his body had, for argument's sake, a resilience of 100?

"What does this…"

Kitsune tried piecing together the information he had been given bby Finia's on ability points up until now. He was able to understand that『Resilience』was, simply put, one's『Defense』.

And comparing the power Finia had displayed thus far with her Strength twelve times his, Kitsune's resilience should easily provide enough defense to take the bee's needle in the flesh.

"Could it be… I'm not making use of the power from my Status…?"

He thought. Perhaps he was overlooking something crucial. That he wasn't fully displaying his 100 Resilience.

But there was no time left for idle ponderings.

As he thought, the bee registered Kitsune as an enemy. It shot its needle towards him.

"…!?"

And at that moment, Kitsune saw the world in slow motion. The point of the stinger was approaching him ever so slowly. Its destination was the middle of his forehead, and it was definitely on a course that would result in certain death.

He remembered. When Finia gave an explanation ho how to use magic. When Kitsune had asked her about it, she had known how to from the moment she was

born, and she had done it by intuition.

To summarize, what Kitsune consciously thought he was able to do didn't correspond with what was displayed on his Status.

As a result… since he had thought there was no way his body would be able to block the stinger, the needle was able to overcome the disparity in stats, and dig into his flesh.

(… Then…)

In his decelerated field of vision, he had yet to give up on his will to live. Believing in his own Resilience, Kitsune convinced himself there was no way the encroaching point would be able to pierce him. He forced the assumption onto himself that his body was more than enough to deal with it.

(I'm not going to die yet…!!)

The needle touched the spot between his eyes, and with that momentum…

… It failed to do anything.

A sound like teeth clashing against one another rang out, and the bee's stinger snaps on his forehead before falling to the ground.

"… 100 Resilience… way to go, me."

HE felt the sweat erupting all over his body as he gained an understanding of how to use his Status. There was no pain, and no wound left behind. This was the lone ability that had been granted to the boy, and having experienced it, Kitsune let a faint smile surface on his face.

And as if there had been no poison to begin with, he easily stood up.

"It seems that Resilience works on Status Abnormalities as well."

Because he had been caught up in the thought that the poison had worked, he had been unable to move. Once he understood it wouldn't do anything to him, the poison that shouldn't have worked on him in the first place lost its effect. Kitsune grasped the now-stingless bee in his bare hands. IT seems the bee was perplexed as to why its own attack hadn't worked, and thus, it was slow to escape.

"When you don't have your stinger, you aren't scary at all. Well, it seems you aren't scary, even when you have it."

Kitsune looked straight into the bee's eyes as he said that.

At that moment, the bee's body stiffened. Just as the Spider he confronted before had sensed, it felt an aura of danger from him. It struggles and squirmed. It no longer cared about anything else, it just wanted to get as far away from Kitsune as possible.

Creepy and revolting.

Kitsune's skill, 『Eerie Constitution』 was the source of the aura.

… 『Eerie Constitution』: When confronted with an enemy, when you have the psychological advantage over them, this skill allows you to overpower them by smashing their motivation.

As long as he stood on a higher mental ground, it was a frightening skill that allowed him to emotionally overpower any enemy regardless of level difference. If Kitsune didn't recognize them as an enemy, or he stood on lower ground psychologically, it wouldn't activate. The skill had various conditions, but once they were settled, it was one that would definitely grant power to him.

"Gi…I…!"

The bee remains pinned down by his hands, staring directly into Kitsune's eyes. No matter how hard it tried to look away, it wasn't able to. The situation was like

torture to it.

Using one hand, Kitsune grasped an area close to its mouth, and used the other to grasp its wings.

“Thank you, bee-kun. Thanks to you, I think I’ll survive for just a little longer.”

With a snapping sound, the wings were fully plucked from the bee’s body. It tried raising a scream, but as Kitsune was wary that it would attract other bees, he stuffed its mouth with the poisonous stinger that had fallen onto the ground.

Apparently, the poison worked on the bee itself, and it stopped struggling, going into severe convulsion.

“Oh? I was certain your own poison wouldn’t work on you. Sorry.”

Kitsune discarded the bee on the ground, and as he had lost interest, he turned his attention elsewhere. He didn’t feel like killing it. He was quite grateful to the bee who taught him how to use his Status. Even so, a bee without wings would probably soon become the prey of some other Magical Beast.

However, the bee felt relief. The very fact that Kitsune had disappeared from its eyes was more reassuring than anything else. Even if, in the near future it was to die by some other Beast’s hand, it thought it was fine as long as it was able to get away from Kitsune himself.

“Ah, that’s right, if I just abandon it like this, it’ll be eaten up by some other monster, right?”

Even though the bee couldn’t understand words, it felt despair the moment Kitsune turned around. Slowly, Kitsune draws himself closer. To compare it to human standards, it felt as if it was walking the thirteen steps up the gallows.

Kitsune hoisted its body up.

“And so, it’s better if I kill you, right?”

“Gi…!?”

From his faint smile, the bee felt malice. The danger it felt from the unnerving presence increased even further, and the bee subconsciously began quivering in a manner appart from the convulsions it was going through. Its Magical Beasts instincts were overcome with fear, and it was certain there was no way it could avoid death.

“Until now, I didn’t plan on killing you, but when I think of your sake, perhaps killing you would be better for you… well then, good bye.”

Kitsune dropped the bee on the ground again, this time, dropping his own foot on top of it.

A grotesque crunching sound resounded, and below his foot… the bee had been crushed to death.

As it saw the foot being lowered onto it, the bee felt the collapse of its own spirit. In the end, the sensation of it being tread on was nothing more than someone else’s problem to it as its life went out with like the flip of a switch.

“Now then… hmm?”

After killing the bee, Kitsune felt a sense of discomfort across his body. Without delay, he confirmed it with his Status Discernment Skill. How convenient, he thought as he confirmed his own condition.

◇Status◇

Name: Naginata Kitsune

Gender: Male Lv4(↑4UP)

Strength: 40

Stamina: 60

Resilience: 180

Dexterity: 50

Magic: 20

Title:『Otherworlder』

Skill:『Pain Resistance Lv8』『Eerie Constitution』『World Language Translator』『Status Discernment』『Persistence(NEW!)』『Coercion(NEW!)』

Innate Skill: ???

PT Member: Finia(Fairy)

◇

It seems his level had risen. The fact that he killed a single Magical Beast, and that his own level was so low, provided him with quite a large level up. But the fact that he still didn't compare to Finia's level 1 stats served as reaffirmation of the fact that he was indeed one of the weak.

"Yeah… anyways, my Resilience rose, so I'll leave it at that."

"Kitsune-saaaaaaaan!!"

"Whoops…!"

As the bees were no match for her, Finia rushed back unhurt. Looking at the area where she fought, there was scorched land here and there, but there were

no bodies or blood. All the evidence had been incinerated.

‘Finia-chan really shows no mercy’ he thought, as he honestly felt joy having overcome the situation.

Author Note: By the way, these are Finia’s stats, post battle ◇Status◇

Name: Finia

Gender: Female Lv3(↑3UP)

Strength: 150

Stamina: 540

Resilience: 130

Dexterity: 180

Magic: 1550

Title:『Fairy of Unrequited Love』

Skill:『Light Magic Lv3』『Mana Recovery Lv2』『Healing Magic Lv3』『Fire Magic Lv3』

Innate Skill: ???

PT Member: ◎Naginata Kitsune

◇

The difference in EXP ratio is due to the author’s adult circumstances.

Chapter 10

IKCTAWBWTWH 8: Red Eyes

Kitsune and Finia immediately moved from the area. No matter how strong Finia was, and regardless of how Kitsune's awareness had finally caught up to his status, they would be severely outnumbered against an entire colony of bees. As long as they couldn't drop the possibility that they were close to the hive, it wasn't wise for them to remain anywhere near the battle site.

Also, while Kitsune knoew he would be able to block a bee's sting, he was doubtful of whether he could block an attack from the wolf or spider of the previous day with nothing but his body. Honestly, scary things are still scary, and he didn't want to try taking attack after attack.

"About how much further?"

"Yeah, from what I see, we're on the last third of the trip."

"So 10km left. We've come quite a ways… if we move at this rate, I guess we'll arrive by sunset?"

"If you don't die, that is!"

Kitsune and Finia were steadily approaching the town. During her battle, Finia had expended quite a bit of Mana, and she was sitting on top of Kitsune's shoulder, trying to recover it. Mana was something that replenished with the passage of time, and the recovery speed varied from person to person. By the way, Finia boasted that she could make a full recovery within two hours.

Along the way, Kitsune tried to test his status as he walked.

There wasn't a good way to confirm『Resilience』, but to test『Dexterity』and 『Strength』, he tried running a bit, and hitting some rocks around the area.

The result was that with the elevations to『Vitality』and『Dexterity』, he was able to run just a little bit faster, and slightly longer, at least, so he felt. The when hit, the rock only cracked a little bit, and perhaps because of his『Resilience』, or his『Pain Resistance Lv8』, his fist didn't feel any pain during or after hitting it.

"Oh right, Finia-chan, what are Skills exactly?"

"Skill? Um, well, they're sort off… what people can do, I guess?"

Finia attempts to wring out her knowledge to answer.

In this world, Skills are the abilities held by people.

For example, let's say Bystander A were to pick up fencing, and keep it up past a certain point. In that case, they would be able to acquire『Fencing』as a Skill.

Among them, there are also Active, and Passive ones. The active ones are the ones with levels attached to them, and the passives are those without.

The Level stuck on Active Skills are that skill's proficiency, or the scope of their effects. At a person's level, just how proficiently can they use it, or how much of it would their Status allow them to draw out. If it rises, it will definitely become something powerful.

As a test case, let's look at Finia's『Fire Magic Lv3』.

She was able to use fire magic, therefore, she acquired the『Fire Magic』skill. Her high magic disposition, as well as her skill in manipulating it, along with her current battle experience, earned the Skill an evaluation of『Lv3』.

The level tacked onto Active Skills… their Skill Level raises by the possessor's

competence.

Putting it all together, the person's individual level raises through gained experience and wisdom, and Status and aptitudes rise corresponding to it. Skill Level is influenced, and rises by personal level, status, proficiency in use, and nature.

By the way, the standard scale of Skill Levels is as follows.

Lv1: Beginner Class

Lv2: Intermediate Class

Lv3: Advanced Class

Lv4: Veteran Class

Lv5: Pro Class

Lv6: Genius Class

Lv7: Hero Class

Lv8: Legendary Hero Class

Lv9: Inhuman

(TL: Lv7 is Eiyuu, and Lv8 is Yuusha. While I understand the difference, I don't know how else to Romanize and differentiate them) Those 9 stages. In this world, even among the highest level of practitioners, there are few with the talent to reach Lv7. If an ordinary bystander were to put in life-threatening training, then the greatest he would be able to achieve would be around Lv5. Lv6 and above is the realm of those born with innate talent in the field.

“Hmm… what they can do, is it…”

Kitsune thought. The things he had been given Skills for were things he could do, and that seemed plausible, but『Eerie Constitution』,『Persistence』 and『Coercion』didn’t really fit under that umbrella.

“Active and passive… I see, so skills you activate by will, and ones you usually have under effect.”

“Ahaha! Yeah, let’s leave it at that!”

For now, Kitsune had obtained a vague idea about Skill Level. He didn’t really understand the criteria, but he thought he would get it sooner or later, so he shifted the rails of his train of thought.

Finia seemed to think Skills were just Skills. She wasn’t thinking too hard about it.

“Even so, what the hell is『Eerie Constitution』… This is definitely the cause of my bullying.”

“What sort of skill is it?”

“No idea. Doesn’t it make people think I’m eerie?”

“Kitsune-san isn’t eerie though.”

Kitsune didn’t know the effect of his passive skills. When he had encountered the Spider and Bee, he had invoked fear in them through it, but he hadn’t realized it.

His Active『Skill Discernment』was too low to even be given a Skill Level. However, that was also something he didn’t know. Kitsune tried thinking harder about it, but as he figured there was no way he would get anywhere just by thinking, he put the matter aside.

“Anyways, for now, it doesn’t look like monsters on the level of bees pose any danger, so has our security increased from before?”

“But right now, Kitsune-san’s defense is only enough to block a pebble thrown out by a child, you know? You have no safety!”

With a bright smile, Finia continued to throw out demotivational lines. Kitsune thought she may be right, as he pushed his way through the vegetation and proceeded forward.

◇ ◇ ◇

After that, they proceeded quite a distance with breaks mixed in between.

While they were tired, the fact they had gotten this far without encountering any Magical Beasts was a spot of good fortune. The distance left to the town was only 3km, a distance that left quite a bit of leisure, both physically and mentally. I mean, they only had one tenth of the trek remaining.

“Just a little bit more.”

“Yeah! My mana is full, too! Even if we encounter a Magical Beast, we’ll be fine!”

“And wait, Finia-chan, couldn’t you have just carried me, and flew there?”

“Sorry, Kitsune-san! My wings are for one man use!”

“Well, I guess they’re too small to carry two.”

As they had some mental leisure, conversation sprung back and forth. But they weren’t negligent of their surroundings. They were still inside of a forest, and it wasn’t strange for another Magical Beast to pop up.

“But it’s that… my stomach’s empty.”

“I can live just fine, even without food, so I’m not really…”

“… You traitor.”

“Ahaha, how cruel, Kitsune-san! No… in this case, am I the cruel one…?”

“Hey, keep up.”

“Ah! Wait for me, Kitsune-san!”

Leaving behind Finia, who had crossed her arms, and begun thinking deeply in midair, Kitsune continued walking forward. Seeing that, Finia rapidly started fluttering towards him.

But at that moment, an aberration occurred in the airspace.

As she was trying to head to Kitsune below, an impact rocked Finia from behind.

“…!?”

“Wha…!?”

Kitsune caught her as she spiraled in his direction, and the calm atmosphere ended there. The phenomenon that caused Finia’s fall didn’t come to a close there. The instant after Kitsune turned around… in the center of his stomach, a sharp edge stabbed him with fearsome momentum.

“Go… fe…!?”

The wind was knocked out of his lungs, and the power sent his body shooting backwards. Even after hitting the ground, the momentum send him tumbling

across it.

“What…?”

It appears that Kitsune’s『Resilience』was on his side, and even though he was stabbed with a sharp object, it barely went into his skin, and it didn’t leave a wound.

He mustered power into his arms to lift his body, and looked at the opponent who had sent him flying. In the place he had been standing before, saw an unidentifiable something.

『――――♪―――♡―――』

A messy black mass of gathered miasma, that raged up like a blazing fire was there. And in the center of that darkness… red eyes stared back at him.

… Death.

Inside of Kitsune’s head, an image of death played out. He understood it in an instant. That if he confronted this thing, if he fought this thing, he would be killed. Overwhelmingly. Hopelessly. This was a monster too different in ability, and he understood that.

From the depths of his heart, chills shake his body. Kitsune opened his eyes wide, and hurriedly stood up. Roughly gripping Finia, who had fallen unconscious near his feet due to the impact, he ran with all his might.

“Hah… hah… hah…! What the hell is that…!”

His legs are tangles. Even though he had become much faster through the status elevations, he felt he was moving incredibly slow. The intense intimidating aura he felt from behind was slowly closing in.

Scary, scary, scary, die, at this rate, I’m going to die. Kitsune was driven to terror. Even if the heavens and earth were reversed, he was certain he wouldn’t

be able to win.

“———♪———♡———♪”

What’s more, he didn’t even feel any killing intent from that monster. It wasn’t thinking to kill him. It wasn’t thinking of anything like that, but it was merely chasing him because it found it interesting. And once it had caught up, even without the intent, it would probably kill him.

“What is this…! I don’t get it…! … Hah… hah…!!”

His breathing was in disarray, and his stamina was running out. His mentality was being chipped at, and he was unconsciously letting tears flow from his eyes.

“Agu!?”

“———♪———”

The black miasma leapt at him, and cut at his back. The defense given to him by his high『Resilience』was torn through like paper, and blood gushed out of the tear in his back.

With the momentum from the cut, Kitsune collapsed onto the ground.

“Gy… uu…!”

He tried to stir himself, but he couldn’t move properly. Because of『Pain Resistance Lv8』, he didn’t feel any pain, but his body had definitely taken damage. It’s natural that the damage would obstruct his movement.

But even after falling forward, Kitsune rose, and he swayed as he continued his flight. Seeing his action, the red eyes within the depths of the miasma narrowed. They didn’t seem to hold any rationality, but it appears that they had developed a different sort of interest in Kitsune than before.

“Gu… hah… hah…!”

Every time he moved his feet forward, the wound on his back convulsed, and he felt like he’s going to fall over. Every time he proceeded, the ground was stained red with his blood, and the path he was taking was clearly indicated.

But the monster of miasma didn’t pursue the boy any further. The swaying Kitsune’s speed was way too slow, and as such, the monster was leisurely moving beside him. The monster appeared to be observing him, as it aimlessly moved around him. The red eyes remained directed at him the entire time.

“Hah… hah……!”

The fear Kitsune held towards the monster messed up his breathing even more. The intimidating air that made it feel as if he would fall unconscious, and the pressure that he may die in the next instant put his mental well being at its limit.

“Ku… Uwaaaaaaaaaaah!!”

Not knowing whether he had raised a battle cry, or a scream, Kitsune raised a loud voice as he took out the broken knife portion from his pocket, and swung it. The monster dodged it all too easily. It even managed to swipe it from his hand.

“Wha…!?”

“———？———♪———☆”

After gazing at the knife for a while, the miasma monster discarded it as if it had lost interest. To gaze directly into Kitsune’s face, it drew closer.

“What is this… for there to be a monster like this here… how was I supposed to know…!”

“———♪♪♪”

As he whispered that, the monster narrowed its eyes in delight. It's not like it said anything, but the emotion was definitely conveyed.

Kitsune stared at it, and for some reason, he felt his mind calm itself down. Even if he was going to be killed in the next moment, he was still alive for now.

(… I don't understand what this thing is… but I'm still alive. I can still move…!) Looking at the fairy Finia in his hand, he remembered.

(My promise to Shiori-chan… I have to protect it…! I can't die yet…! I don't want to die…!) He felt power surge up from the depths of his body. His body moves. Though his wounds aren't healing, he's able to move without resistance.

Perhaps he had gotten stimulated by being too close to death. Perhaps it was that adrenaline thing, he thought, as he stirred up his body.

Kitsune hadn't noticed it, but this was the ability of the skill『Persistence』in effect. As long as his mentality didn't give up hope on his continued existence, it was a skill that would temporarily allow his body to work beyond its limits. If he had activated『Status Discernment』at the time, he would have understood it.

◇Status◇

Name: Naginata Kitsune

Gender: Male Lv4

Strength: 140(+100)

Stamina: 160(+100)

Resilience: 280(+100)

Dexterity: 150(+100)

Magic: 120(+100)

Skill『Persistence』In EFFECT

◇

Is what it had become. Kitsune raced out with his body, which could move again. Much faster than before, the monster of miasma seemed mildly startled.

But even so, it easily followed behind him. Regardless of the『Persistence』Status boosts, Kitsune was still far below it. The overwhelming difference had only closed ever-so-slightly, but the main problem didn't change.

"Hah… hah… as I though… am I going to die?"

His breath now in order, he ran as fast as his body would permit, but the monster was already running in normal strides beside him.

(My mind's recovered enough for me to crack retorts, I guess. This is adrenaline, right… Uwah, I still don't get the feeling I can win… but if I can run like this all the way to the town…!) Kitsune experienced speeds the likes of which he had never run before as he turned down a path that would lead him to town. The overwhelming pressure on him was still crushing him, but in the end, all of the opponents he had faced up to this point were monsters capable of killing him, so having a stronger one come out didn't really change anything.

"Or so I tried thinking!"

"ーーーーーー！ーーー♡"

Kitsune suddenly came to a stop, and changed directions. The monster keeps running forward a bit, before braking, and changing course to match him.

But by that turn, he was able to gain a little bit of distance. It would probably close up soon enough, but still, it was there. Before he was closed in on, he tried

scheming a plan.

“…… I ain’t got nothing!?”

While running, he received quite a shock. As he was in a forest, there wasn’t anything. Without any plan in mind, he was easily overtaken.

“ーーーー♪♪ーーーー♡”

“Hah… this pitch black wanker.”

“ーーーーー！”

The atmosphere surrounding Kitsune changed. He stopped, and glared at the monster. This didn’t look like one who would calmly let him run off all the way to town, and even if he tried to run, the other side was faster. He decided running would be impossible.

“And wait, there’s about 3km to town, right… it’s too far if I wanted to run… what the hell was I thinking?”

“ーーーーー？”

Kitsune muttered to himself as his eyes filled with his will to live. His feelings that he didn’t want to die mingled in with『Persistence』… and exceeded the miasma monster’s madness.

To summarize,『Eerie Constitution』’s activation conditions had been met.

“Anyways, going down without a fight isn’t my style.”

“ーーーーー？ーーーー？？”

The monster was much stronger than Kitsune. While it had never met them

before, it was on the same level as Dragons, and other supreme beasts of calamity.

However, 『Eerie Constitution』worked without heed to such differences in level. Regardless in a true difference in ability, it was a Skill that worked through psychological superiority.

“I’ll resist, and resist, and escape before I die. Come at me, pitch black monster!”

“———♪”

On the boy’s words, the perplexed monster displayed an emotion of joy. It’s interest in Kitsune was higher than ever before. The pressure it exerted rose even further, but as Kitsune already saw the monster as much stronger than himself, it didn’t have any effect on his psychological superiority.

“Orya!!”

“———☆☆”

He picked up a rock lying on the ground, and chucked it. Of course, the monster dodged… but in that moment, Kitsune was able to close in, and step right in front of it. The speed raised by 『Persistence』 surpassed what the monster had anticipated.

“An opening!!”

He took out the broken knife hilt, and swiped the remaining blade portion at it horizontally. Inside of the miasma, the edge grazed against something, and when the knife had escaped the darkness, the blade was covered in a slight amount of blood.

… I can do this. Attacks can get through!

The moment Kitsune thought that…

“———♪☆♡♪☆☆☆♡♪”

The monster raised a cry that couldn’t be described in sound. On the cry, 『Eerie Constitution』 was forcibly dispelled, and 『Persistence』 also lost its effect.

Kitsune opened his eyes in shock, but his moment of hesitation was fatal.

“aa… Ha…!?”

By the time he noticed it, he was dancing through the sky.

He couldn’t tell what was up or down, and he couldn’t determine the actions that had happened in that instant. All he understood was that he was sent flying above the forest, and sprawling in the sky.

And then…

“Gofuh…!?”

From his mouth, bloot spurted out. He saw the red blood obey gravity, and fall to the ground. And across his chest, raced… pain.

What happened to Kitsune was an uppercut-esque attack performed by the monster of miasma with fearsome speed. The attack had impacted his abdomen, and its massive output was enough to send him reeling into the sky. What’s more, the level of damage it caused was enough to breach Kitsune’s 『Pain Resistance Lv8』 effect that cut off his sense of pain.

(… Ah, it won’t move anymore… this body.)

『Persistence』 and 『Eerie Constitution』 were lifted, and the damage obstructing his movement returned. As he began to feel his body start to descend, Kitsune obtained enlightment about the limits of his own body.

(I don’t want… to let Finia-chan die…)

Kitsune held Finia’s body close to his, as he pointed his back to the earth. He removed the mask, and embraced it alongside her. Like this, even if they were to collide with the ground, the mask and the girl would get out of it alive.

“Shiori-chan… I’m sorry.”

The moment his body hit the ground, he spoke those lines as his consciousness faded. The last thing Kitsune saw was, watching his descent with delight… those red eyes.

Chapter 11

Chapter 9: Surviving Reality

… It’s pitch black.

For some reason, it’s nostalgic… yeah, it’s that. The same as back when I died. The feeling of sinking into the depths of a deep, cold, and dark ocean. But compared to before, the falling feeling seems much slower… perhaps that means my wounds are less fatal this time around.

But there’s no doubt that I’ll die at this rate. I don’t want to die. I want to somehow return to the surface, but I can’t feel my body. Only my conscious is sinking, and even if I try to reach out my hands, I have none. Even if I try to kick with my legs, I have none. This is no good, I have no cards to play… so am I going to die…

I wonder what happened to Finia-chan. I made sure to protect the mask, so she probably didn’t die from the impact… but I doubt that monster would just let her leave. When I recall those red eyes… I still feel a little afraid.

And.

…!

I felt the sensation of my sinking body resurfacing. Something is enveloping me, and pulling me up. This is one of the barest of possibilities, but maybe I’m still… alive.

Within the darkness, I saw a single light. I didn’t have the feeling of my hands, but I give an intent to reach them out. Slowly, the light grows brighter, and when

my entire surroundings were covered in a pure white light… I heard a voice.

…ne…n! …tsu…n!

Ah, this is that child's voice. My best friend, Shiori-chan's voice. She's calling for me. I have to go, or else…

My consciousness was swallowed by the light, and resurfaced.

◇ ◇ ◇

"Kitsune-san! Kitsune-san!"

Within the forest, a voice called out to the fallen boy.

The owner of that voice was a small fairy… Finia. With her hands pointed at him, she used healing magic again, and again. Even after running out of Mana, she continues pointing her hands, and trying to activate it, but of course, nothing happens.

Kitsune was submerged in a puddle of his own blood. The wounds had already been fully taken care of with the magic, but he had lost too much blood. Kitsune's face was pale, and anyone could see he was in a state where he would die at a moment's notice.

"Kitsune-san! Wake up! Open your eyes…!!"

Out of magic, and too exhausted to even fly. It wouldn't be strange for her to have passed out from fatigue, but Finia desperately continues to call out to Kitsune.

Shen she had opened her eyes, the monster of miasma had already left. In its place, she found Kitsune collapsed in terminal condition. In the first place, Finia never saw the form of her enemy. Just what had attacked her, or what had happened to put the boy in such a state were completely unknown to her. She frantically continued to cast healing magic on him.

“Kitsune-sa… haa… haa…!”

Her calling voice grew faint, and her breathing became rough. She fell to her knees, and sat on the ground. Hugging the finger of Kitsune, who was losing strength before her eyes, she erased her ever-present smile as she wept. Thikc tears fell, and along with her sobbing, she raised a quiet cry.

“Uee… Kitsune… sa…! Ueeeeeeen! Kitsune-saaaaaaan!”

A childing cry rang out. Her tears ran down, and soaked Kitsune’s hand.

His wet hand twitched slightly.

“… Don’t cry… Finia-chan…”

“! Kitsune-san!”

“Keho… hah… hah… it seems I’ve survived somehow.”

“Yeah… that’s great…!”

Still with a pale expression, Kitsune lifted his body. Observing his surroundings, he saw that the monster was no longer there. For now, he breathed a sigh of relief.

And when he used his left hand to cover his face… he noticed.

“…? …Finia-chan… sorry, but my face… what’s wrong with the left side?”

“…”

On his question, Finia took a deep breath. She had probably noticed before, but it was hard to say. When Kitsune looked into her eyes, she averted them, and

slowly opened her mouth.

"… Your l-left eye is… gone…"

Just as she had said, Kitsune had lost his left eye. In the space where it was, there was nothing but a dark red hole.

Having heard that, Kitsune gained a vague idea of just what had happened after he was on the brink of death, and before Finia awoke him. It's likely the doing of that the miasma monster… the red eyed one. While Kitsune was unconscious, that monster had eaten his eye.

He didn't know whether it was a Magical Beast, or some other lifeform entirely, but as long as it was out assaulting humans, there was more than enough of a chance that it ate people.

Kitsune tested the change from losing half of his eyesight, as he removed his hand from the hole where his left eye once was.

"… My eye, is it…"

Using his finger, Kitsune patted the head of Finia, who was looking at him with a worried expression, as he stood up. He restlessly looked around, and found the Kitsune Mask behind him. He took unsteady steps, and collected it.

And he placed the depressed Finia on his right shoulder.

"Kitsune-san…"

"It's alright… let's keep going…"

As if it had become muddy, the vision from his right eye was dark. With a pale complexion, his visage was like a ghost's, and a bit eerie. But even so, his clouded eye still had a will to live. Right now, his promise to Shinozaki Shiori was the only thing supporting Kitsune.

Unsteadily, Kitsune slowly proceeded forward. The town was only a little further. Kitsune put on the mask that was in his hand. This time, he didn't hang it on one side, he firmly set it to cover his face. To cover the hole of his left eye, to hide his white complexion, Kitsune wore the face of a Kitsune.

"Just a little further…"

Little by little, but his feet were definitely moving forward.

◇ ◇ ◇

The time was night. When the sky had become quite gloomy, Kitsune and Finia took a rest under a large tree. Without removing the mask, Kitsune leaned against the base of the trunk, and fell asleep. Next to him, Finia kept watch of the area.

The girl, no, the fairy, while alive, didn't require food or sleep to sustain function. To put it specifically, she was able to do both actions, but it wasn't a necessity. All a fairy needed to live was the intermediary through which they were born, 『Nature』, or『Feelings』.

Even so, fairies possessed a body and soul similar to humans. As with humans, if they suffered a fatal injury, they would usually die.

With Natural Fairies, even if one died, another would be born, but for an Ideological Fairy, even if the intermediary item remained, they wouldn't be revived. As long as that item was in a good condition, they wouldn't have a life span, so they wouldn't die from time. Of course, they would perish if that item were to be destroyed.

Leaving that aside, anyways, as she didn't require sleep, Finia passed the night keeping watch. Her expression had taken a drastic dark turn from the usual, and she looked back at him time and again. Her face was filled with a sense of guilt.

She regretted. After she said she would protect him, Kitsune's near-death state felt like her responsibility.

“Kitsune-san…”

What’s more, he paid the irreplaceable price of his eye. It was an injury she wouldn’t be able to compensate for regardless of her power. Even after using healing magic, she couldn’t recover what was lost. Perhaps her magic level wasn’t high enough, or it wasn’t something any level of magic could take care of. Finia brooded over it.

“Kitsune-san… I’ll protect you…”

Finia whispered, as she clenched her small fist. Her magic had recovered, and she could move her body.

She couldn’t let Kitsune get hurt any further, and even if it cost her her life, she would protect him. Resolve rose in her flaxen eyes.

“From here on… I’ll become Kitsune-san’s left eye.”

She placed her hand on Kitsune’s face, concealed by the mask, as she let out her voice. Her small voice echoed through the gloomy forest, before going out.

◇ ◇ ◇

Night came to an end.

Kitsune opened his eye, and started walking alongside Finia in the early morning. The conversations they exchanged before encountering the monster had died out, and within an awkward silence, they proceeded forward.

The previos night, they had walked a while, and only 1km remained to the town. Their surroundings were undergoing a complete change, and the gaps between each tree gradually began to widen. The height of the vegetation also began to fall. They expected that they would soon be out of the forest.

“…”

“…”

What sort of face was he making underneath that mask? Finia still didn’t know. His gait had gotten much better than yesterday, so after a nights rest, he had probably recovered considerably. All he had eaten in the past three days were weeds and fruits that seemed safe. There hadn’t been any major changes to his body after eating them, so he had harvested quite a few, but that stock had already been run through.

After a few hours had passed, Kitsune opened his mouth.

“… Finia-chan.”

“! W-what could it be!?”

“Sorry. I’m already fine… I’ve been able to put my thoughts in order quite a bit.”

Saying that, he took off his mask, and made a bitter smile. Under it was, without change, a blank hole where his left eye once was… but Kitsune appeared to have some determination in regards to that. As evidence, his expression was no longer sad.

“Y-yeah! I’m the one who should be sorry… I said I would protect you, and yet…”

“Ahaha, don’t worry about it. I don’t think even Finia-chan would be a match for that one… more importantly… I’m happy you’re safe.”

“… Yeah.”

She dismounted his shoulder, and put her face to his. Their emotional wounds hadn’t healed completely, but both of their expressions had gotten a little softer.

“Ah… Finia-chan, look.”

“Eh… ah!”

In the direction Kitsune’s finger pointed… spread a vast grassland. They had gotten out of the forest. And looking over the field… they saw a town.

In these three days, thinking of how hard they had tried to come all the way here, Kitsune’s and Finia’s expressions turned bright.

“We did it…!”

“Let’s go! Kitsune-san!”

On Finia’s words, Kitsune ran out. There was only less than 800m to the town, a distance they could instantly span by running. With his elevated status, it was one Kitsune could span easily. They gradually approach civilization.

But there, a final obstruction appeared.

“Wha…!”

“Even here…!”

Distanced about 500m from the town, a Demon Beast stood before them. What came out were several wolf-shaped ones the size of a large breed of dog. From the hostility in their eyes, Kitsune knew it was looking on him as prey.

“… I see, but that’s no good… at you guys’ level, you’ll never even scratch that monster from before.”

Kitsune wasn’t scared. Having tasted the complete fear of death, and having experienced it a second time, he had gained mental strength as not to fear anything. After experiencing the greatest of threats, everything else seemed but a small trifle.

And for Kitsune, that was the most beneficial of powers.

“Status.”

Kitsune activated his『Status Discernment』.

◇Status◇

Name: Naginata Kitsune

Gender: Male Lv4

Strength: 140(+100)

Stamina: 160(+100)

Resilience: 280(+100)

Dexterity: 150(+100)

Magic: 120(+100)

Skill『Persistence』IN EFFECT

Title:『Otherworlder』

Skill: 『Pain Null Lv1(NEW!)』『Eerie Constitution』『World Language Translator』『Status Discernment』『Persistence』『Coercion』『Near Death Experience(NEW!)』

Innate Skill: ???

PT Member: Finia(Fairy)

◇

“Hmm? For some reason, my『Pain Resistance Lv8』changed. Well, I guess that’s fine… when fighting against that monster, there’s something I started to understand.”

“GRRRRRRRR…!”

“It’s about how to activate this skill…!”

As he said that, for a brief instant, the wolves saw something. Something like a living creature, yet an existence unlike any…right, that was death itself.

…『Eerie Constitution』

The wolves take a step back. It was because the atmosphere around Kitsune had changed.

Scary. Creepy. I don’t want to get any closer. Eerie pressure great enough for those thoughts to enter their minds. Though he was a weakling they would be able to handle if they all leapt at him, he was a dangerous presence they didn’t want to approach.

“Ah… this too.”

Saying that, a thin smile spread across Kitsune’s face. There, the next Skill activated.

…『Coercion』.

The pressure emitted at the wolves became even heavier. They felt as if they were going to be crushed. No matter how much they wanted to run away, they couldn’t take a single step away. The great sense of intimidation had stiffened their body to that extent.

“Active Skills can be used just by thinking or performing the action, but… it looks like Passives have some conditions you have to meet to use them… that’s stuff like my『Eerie Constitution』. In order to use it, I’ll be there’s a sort of psychological trigger. In my case, it’s deeply related to fear… My skill probably only activates when I have mental stability.”

The wolves had no choice but to quietly listen to Kitsune’s monologue. They couldn’t move.

“And my Skill is a sort of thing that intimidates an enemy’s mentality… do you think I’m scary?”

With a faint smile on his face, Kitsune approached the wolves. HE pat one of their immobile heads, and walked straight past them.

“Seeya. Now that you understand that you can’t underestimate weak humans… don’t go attacking them left and right.”

Saying that, he released the skill, and the wolves were released from their paralysis.

But without doing something as foolish as attacking him… they departed towards the forest in terror. Kitsune turned only his head to watch them off, before he started walking forward again with his faint smile on his face.

“Kitsune-san, was that fine? Not killing them?”

“It’s fine. Right now, as long as we’re alive… that’s enough.”

“… That’s right. Yeah! That’s exactly right!”

Finia gave a bright smile. Kitsune gave a thin one. As the two of them returned to their usual selves, Kitsune and Finia arrived at the village entrance.

“… Hah… hah… we’ve finally arrived…!”

“Yeah…!”

“That’s good…”

But there, Kitsune lost consciousness. Even if he had recovered, his mind and body had been accumulating quite a bit of fatigue. From the sense of relief brought about from arriving at town, he collapsed, as if a switch had been flipped.

“Kitsune-san! Kitsune-san!?”

Finia calls out to him in worry. But seeing as he was breathing normall, she was relieved to find he was only sleeping.

However, she couldn’t just leave him there. A troubled expression surfaced on her face.

And there…

“Um… Are ‘ya… I mean, are you alright?”

“Eh?”

A voice like that called out to them.

Chapter 12

Chapter 10

When kitsune's awoken, his first view was a wooden roof. After a while, he touched his face with his left hand, and found some bandages on his face. Seems that somebody has nursed him, isn't it!?

Kitsune raise his body and take a look around him. It seems that somehow he ended up on a bed, and his blanket fell slowly. Glancing to his left, there's a wooden desk that can be reached just by stretching his hand. On the desk his mask is laid, and some simple food is served. He hastily stood up from the bed, and wore his mask.

[…. Where is this?…]

No matter what, this place seems to be somebody's room. Though there's nobody here aside from kitsune now, if he waited around there might be someone coming back.

Kitsune tries to find finia, by wearing the mask, he saw [status judgement], and somehow after checking, finia is not there. In his assumption, maybe she is with the person staying in this room. Feeling the partner that walks with him all this time suddenly disappear makes him felt very very lonely.

After a while, his stomach starts to grumble. Even so, he thought, that getting out of this room is not the best choice for him, then kitsune took on his hand some bread and fruits from the table.

He's aware that he kept eating the food in his hand, he felt some sentimental feelings about it, at first it's just a bite but afterwards he can't stop eating. No

matter what he's really hungry since he ate all the food on the table.

[…Fuu, my stomach is bigger now…. So sleepy… let's get some more sleep]

[…. Oo, good morning finia-chan]

[yes, good morning! In other words its guu~dafteeeernoon!!]

[hahaha…. By the way, how did you get in?]

[from the door!]

Kitsune sit back on the bed as finia arrives. And as usual finia throws some rude remarks straight to kitsune. While kitsune gazed on the only entrance – exit in the room while listening to finia.

On the door there's a female with a scarlet hair, with dango like hair. She looked like kitsune's age, her eyes are green which makes her different from most other people, and on her skin in the middle of the clothes, there's bandages and ointment, lots of it. But aside from that, the sword on the female is what amazed kitsune. It is a {one hand slayer} sword.

First things first, he need to know about the girl in this room.

On kitsune's word, the girl started to smile bitterly. In his own world, kitsune gave of an unpleasant feelings which more of a malice to people around him, he pass his days like that, and even after coming to this world, he is unsure whether he will experience such life again, he's feeling sensitive that he would make such atmosphere. But after seeing her, he felt the girl doesn't seem to feel like that, so his wariness eases up a little bit.

[e-too, then, you are the one that helped me?]

[a,aa… since you collapsed with body full of injuries in from of the city gates-na, I wanted to show the wounds to a doctor but… I don't understand how it

could have happened… beside, your left eyes wound seemed not so severe, so I brought you to my room here]

[i see…. Thank you. Then you are also the one that healed my left eye?]

[yes, if left alone, the wounds will get worse-na]

[here, is a country?]

[nn? This is miniera country]

The lady answered kitsune question without hesitation. Seems this place is a country, not a city… since this is a different world, for kitsune it seems that the common sense of population of a country is different.

Anyhow, since he has troubled the girl too much, again he bowed his head and said his thanks.

[ee~to, your name is?]

[ah forgive me… its a bit of a late introduction-na.. My name is trishe rumiela. But you can call me trishe]

[un, mine is naginata kitsune… ah, you can call me kitsune]

[un, the name is not “naginata”?]

[no, in my place, its called “kitsune”… I see, here it would be kitsune naginata instead]

Kitsune re-said his name while thinking that this world and his world has some differences. Seems that trishe understood it and offers her hand. Then, kitsune started to approach and also give hand for hand shake.

[well, seems you are not an evil person-na…. And again, while waiting for you to regain consciousness, I talked with finia, and seems there is no bad intention from you. So nice to meet you ne]

[un, ah nice to meet you too… ee-to, rishe-chan]

[my name is trishe… but never mind, call me as you like]

Kitsune shakes her hand then finia sits on both their palm, while smiling.

Kitsune and rishe, laughed together after seeing finia innocent smile.

[well then, let's just have some meal for now. I already went shopping with finia earlier]

[that so?]

[yes that so!]

Kitsune who's sitting on the bed immediately raise his body, and rishe came out of the room. After coming out of the room, it seems this room is used for travelers. Aside from the room kitsune was in, there's several other similar looking room. And if they go down from the end of the corridor, they arrived in a void. There's several table lined, and it seemed to be a canteen/tavern. The canteen, itself links with the receptions, and there's a lady that looks like a [japanese restaurant mistress] stood there.

[in this inn, the guest can use the kitchen, so when you want to, you can cook your own favorite food]

[hee… in other words, you can also ask for food from this inn?]

[ah, if we pay, we can get 3x meal per day, morning, noon, and dinner. Well, even so, you still have to come on the set time of the day-na]

[well if so then, the money is wasted then (t/n : useless basically)]

Kitsune nodded on the explanation by rishe, and finia seems to emit a feeling of understanding as well.

And, up to there kitsune realized… food can be served by the inn if you pay, but earlier rishe and finia mentioned they went out to buy groceries. In other words…

[rishe-chan can cook?]

[hemm… how rude… even though like this, i'm a good cook, my friends even told me I can even opened up a shop at my cooking level]

[hee… I have high expectant ok!]

[aa, I will make some for finia as well, please sit and wait ok]

Kitsune and finia both sat on an empty table as rishe said. Then rishe went into the kitchen and disappears.

After kitsune saw that rishe went into the kitchen, he relax his body and, finia that are stretching her legs while sitting on top of the table gazed around and yawned.

[finia-chan… how long was i… asleep?]

[ee? Umm, we've been in this country since morning, so… around 5 hour?]

[i see.. Then, you said you went out shopping with rishe.. In town… ah no… this country… what do you think about this country?]

[its crowded! Compared to where kitsune lived.. The building as well as the shop felt different]

Kitsune listen to the information about this country from finia. Since the beginning, their plan coming to this country was to find safety from magic beasts and to gather information about this world. If it's not possible to collect information about this country for even a tiny bit, then the dream to return to the previous world is just a dream, and they won't be able to survive in this world right?

Kitsune who's listening from bits of rishe's chat, slowly starts to understand about this world. First is name, which is family name is not common in this world. So names with katakana is common sense (t/n note : not sure about this one). If it's finia the nits called finia (t/n: seems the author is trying to express naming by katakana to be the norm here). In any case, in this country kitsune will not introduce himself with family name. Like finia what called him [kitsune], then he would introduce himself as such. And keep his coming in from another world as a secret.

[finia chan… about us coming from a different world, please keep it a secret.]

[e? ……Un, ok]

Listening to kitsune's talk, finia who are bonded with him, nodded without asking the reason. [Isekai/ other world], as a name that was given by himself alone is a strange enough] has been shown by status. It's better to keep it hidden for now. At least until he can understand the people that's living in this world.

In addition to that, the clothes kitsune wore is a high school uniform. Since he's poor he has no intention to replace his clothing. But even so, by seeing trishe's uniform that looks like a female soldier, kitsune's clothes is weird in this world. That is easy enough to understand.

[at the very least, to survive in this world. No matter how little, money is needed. I have to get some work soon]

[a, ok then let's try to be an adventurer!]

[adventurer?]

[yes, when I was shopping I saw! Its [adventurer's guild]! I asked rishe as well, there's no doubt about it!]

Adventurer's guild. Kitsune listen and think about it.

Guild is a standard in fantasy world. Accepting request to defeat magic beast, or gathering medicinal herbs, then receiving monetary compensation for it. It's basically a good place.

However, danger constantly follows this. For kitsune whose run to the town was to escape from fighting magic beast, this is the least he of what he wanted to do, and, even only temporarily, wanted to live in peace. [People that kills magic beast] is of course scary to their surrounding.

[but we can't just do that…]

From rishe's reaction, even in this world, [such people] can be understood that they have some weights. By that, the chance of being hired by service industry is non existent. Nobody will entertain someone with unclear pasts, no one. That's why adventurer job where there is no past will be asked and getting compensation for it, is the best place for kitsune to get some living cost with his current condition.

[finia chan]

[yes, what is it?]

[is it still valid? The promise that you will protect me?]

[…….. Of course, I will protect you kitsune san]

Finia didn't smile when she heard kitsune's word. Hearing that, kitsune closes his eyes and think. After a few seconds, he gave of a thin smile.

[ok then, let’s join the guild. But, finia chan]

[nn?]

[i will also become strong… at least strong enough to not get killed by someone else] (t/n: is it someone else? Or something else as in magic beast? Dunno but the translation said someone else) [….. Yes, let’s fight together!]

Kitsune decided, he will take a small chance. Otherwise he won’t start anything at all.

Starting now, he will find a way to return to his world. In other words, even fighting this world will be fine.

By that thinking, he can’t avoid fighting magic beast and humans. That’s why… even for a little bit, he wants to be strong. Kitsune was determined.

[sorry to kept you waiting, the food is ready]

[yes, i’ve been waiting for this]

On the plate rishe brought, there’s salad and steak, appearance wise, it’s not so different with his world, but there’s also something else that he never seen before.

[this, what kind of meat is this?]

[ah, this is torisu meat. Its a magical beast bird class that lives in a nearby area]

[i see….]

The steak served in front of him, is known as the meat of the magic beast that endangers him and his partner. He tried eating it and more or less the good taste makes him feels complicated But when he saw finia chan next to him exerting a mogyu mogyu expression with a meat in her mouth, he thought ….. Never

mind….

As a fairy that doesn't need nourishment, she eat it like a kid anyway, makes kitsune smile provocatively.

[un, this is tasty. Rise chan is good at cooking]

[thanks, but this is all I can cook, well… if its sword related then its still nothing]

[sword…. in other words, Rise Chan is an adventurer?]

[ah no, i'm an apprentice [Knight Group] of this country]

[Knight Group?]

Rishe explained to him while eating.

Seems that in this town aside from [adventurer's guild], there is also an organization called [knight's group]. In kitsune world, this is known as police, they're an organization that patrols the city, and do crime control. [Knight group] is people that took the test to see their ability. And if they pass, they can become knights. The salary also increases according to their ability, as long as they don't do violation, the income is guaranteed.

Then, what rishe said as apprentice knight, to have jitsuryoku to become a knight, in reality is a guidebook obtained from knights in the [knight group]. To get this jitsuryoku, you have to get an approval to take the test from the knights academy.

[rishe chan, how long have you been an apprentice knight?]

[ah, around 2 year, but… seems that my jitsuryoku is still lacking]

[hee… is it really so lacking in ability?]

[don’t say things that hurts… kitsune]

[a, this is tasty!]

[don’t change the subject!]

While chatting like that kitsune finishes his meal.

[gochisousama deshita]

[what does that means?]

[emm, well.. Its an expression for food in my hometown]

[i see, what is the meaning of it?]

[ehm, it’s an expression of gratitude for families or friends that gave the food required to live, something like that?]

[… He, it’s a followable common sense -na]

While talking like that, rishe gathers the plates and utensils. Carried it to the kitchen to wash it then came back.

[now…. What will kitsune do?]

With rishe’s word, all the tale of kitsune will be started.

Chapter 13

Chapter 11

[Adventurer's Guild]

[anyway, we were thinking of joining the [Adventurer's Guild]]

Hearing Rishe's word Kitsune replied that.

Though after she listed to those words, Rishe's face looks worried. Then after a few second, she said "yes".

[isn't it great? Since aside from fighting, there's also peaceful request like helping people-na, it's reasonable level for getting living expenses]

Hearing that, she agreed to Kitsune's plan.

[Adventurer's Guild] is located in several nation, and have several branch. So it can be said that it's a free organization, not fixed within 1 country. Same as merchants that moves around all countries to have business dealings, if an adventurer receives a job, he can go to other countries in this world. It means that he is not fixed to his home country. From the beginning, adventurer Guild, aside as working place, also have other merit's like if there's a Guild branch in some cities, then by showing the Guild card, an adventurer can issue citizen ID in that Guild branch.

But these advantages again, is varied and different based on the every country where the Guild is located. The reason is due to the give and take relationship. For example, Guild in country A, will make agreements based on the benefit of the country a. The most common ones would be that as long as the adventurer is

registered to that country Guild, he/she must become the military asset of the country. And can be summoned for emergencies like Magic Beast subjugation/ bandit subjugation. This is because in country a there is the king who thinks about his kingdom subjects dearly.

Thus, the Guild requirement will also vary according to their location. And usually since there's many danger on every country, they would also like to put as much fighting strength as they can muster. Thus usually in these Guild there is a strong person who can take care of even powerful Magic Beast.

In short, the country recognize the Guild branch, and in exchange, the Guild cannot refuse if the country they are located in, gave a request when they're in crisis.

The [Adventurer's Guild] is such a place, though aside from mandatory assignment, they're also independent most of the time.

And also, adventurer's have another name, and that is [free man]. Dead or alive, live for good, live for bad, to battle or to flee, it's their own risk and decision to make. That's why the romance, the drama.

For Kitsune though, right now, it's a job to just get by in life. Though there's not few mans or womans who became an adventurer.

[I see, then let's begin, joining the Guild]

For Kitsune, he stood after getting an affirmation from Rishe. Finia that felt the conversation is over also starts to flap her wings. "Strike while the iron is hot", so within today, he needs to prepare some money and get a place to live in. He can't afford to waste any more time.

[ah, wait a moment]

Rishe stops him.

Kitsune only looks back, and Rishe gave 3 silver coins to Kitsune.

Unconsciously, Kitsune tilts his head and shows confusion.

[to register with the Guild you need 1 silver coin, I think you look poor, so i'll lent it to you]

[… Then let me borrow this with thanks, when I can gather enough money, i'll return it]

Rishe! See you again!]

A thought of Japanese modesty flashes in his mind, and to register to the Guild, there should be some undertakings. So with a bitter smile, Kitsune puts the 3 silver coins into his pouch. Then he promised, that he will definitely return it. Finia also has the same feeling and with her little hand she waved while smiling.

While giving her gentle smile to Kitsune and Finia, Rishe returns back.

[aa, i'm basically staying in this inn, I'll wait for them patiently.]

[leaving those words, Kitsune left the door of the inn. He won't forget that his first encounter with a human being in this world is a very kind and generous girl.

◇◇◇

After seeing Kitsune goodbye from the inn, Rishe let out her breath, "fiuhh" and remembered her discussion with Kitsune and Finia.

Rishe finding a person lying in front of miniera entrance is purely coincidence. As known, Rishe is an apprentice knight, and right now as much as possible she trained everyday.

But, for her, the spent 2 years yield no results, it's making her impatient. Though she practice day and night, she thought that she lacks practice and it takes more effort for her than people around her.

That's why, early in the morning, where nobody is awake yet, she wore her uniform neatly and left the city. In this city, the nearest forest has a habitat of magical beast, and after getting out of that forest, there's a lot of small fish that can be made training opponent. Though Rishe is alone, she won't lose to such low fries. She though to train with those today early morning.

That is when she met Kitsune. His clothes were worn out, and when she saw Kitsune's hollowed left eye that looks like it was taken, it made Rishe felt fainting.

She is not a knight yet, therefore she has absolutely no experience in real battle. Someone who are dying, or near death, she has never encountered such situation/person. If she remembers it now, she felt uneasy, the wound on his left eyes is too severe.

It was supposed to be too much for her. But for Rishe who is aiming to become a knight for helping people, seeing the small fairy beside Kitsune, who kept on trying to help Kitsune with her healing magic even though she herself almost passed out, Rishe started to talk to the fairy… who introduced herself as Finia, and she kept on saying this to Rishe.

[please!, Kitsune san… please help Kitsune!]

Seeing her eyes at that moment, she felt something moved inside of her to help Kitsune.

Even in her logic, she have the intention to abandon them. For Rishe, without thinking at that time, she admired Finia's pupil, there's a strong will residing inside of her, and she felt that it's priceless compared to anything.

As the result, her intention to abandon them caved, and she helped them instead. She brought them to her inn, and treated his left eye, and somehow managed to bandage the wounds.

[he…Is… that Kitsune… a very strange person isn't he… but, I don't feel uncomfortable with him]

Rishe remembered the silver coins that were lent to Kitsune. In this world, something like borrowing money is usually requested first by the borrower. Because if you just lend it, then it might be lost. These kinds of things are common sense.

But Rishe, believed that Kitsune will properly return the money. Even if there's no reason to feel like such, she feels it anyway.

[until then, I will wait for the enjoyment to meet you again]

Muttering that, Rishe returns to her room.

◇◇◇

Kitsune is going from the inn towards the Guild guided by Finia. Even if it's already afternoon, the path he took is still noisy from people's conversation. A lot of shops are entertaining their waiting customers, sounds of metal knocking from shops that are working on something, somebody chatted with friends, it's a lively sound that gave off a pleasant atmosphere.

Finia doesn't feel that way when she looked at it the first time, but for Kitsune, he felt amazed by all of this. Perhaps, this kind of town shops is rarely seen in his own world.

[it's extremely noisy, right!?]

[yes, I'm also very surprised! Uwaaaa! That yakitori looks delicious!]

[well it's useless if we don't have the money to buy it right?]

[dessu yo nee] (t/n: he felt that way too)

Kitsune saw various conditions of people while he walks. Midway, he saw a group of males and a female adventurer that carry a sword like Rishe, Kitsune doesn't mind too much since it's a world with fantasy like setting where people commonly carry weapons. On the opposite walking here and there restlessly will

only be considered suspicious behavior and only makes him stands out.

After he walks from that place for a moment, there's a big conspicuous building. it's similar looking building that Finia pointed at earlier, so maybe that building is the [Adventurer's Guild] isn't it?. A horizontal thin metal signboard is written with flabby alphabets, so he can't read it. He realized that the『world language translator』skill is only usable in conversation and not in writings.

With mixed feelings, he finds out new things, he opened the 2 adjoined doors from the middle.

[excuse me~]

With those lines, he enters the building, and beyond his imagination, the upholstery is well featured. At the inner part, the receptionists setups, signboard for inquiry notices, etc, if this were a fantasy world then there is no such lacking in imagination in here, all is orderly with beautiful layouts. What he thought was an uncivilized adventurer, but he have a little bit better impression of the Guild.

[what are you… such thin and weak looking body… wanna be an adventurer?]

Kitsune does look like what the adventurer said. Kitsune's good impression of the place immediately fell.

[ah yes I would like to]

[hahahahaha!!! This guy is interesting! Well good luck! Boy!]

[yeah.. Thanks]

[e..? Ah, I know! You have a fairy with you… hee…]

The large build man who grew unshaven stubble and was obviously barbarous said so. Maybe, for them, they thought that Kitsune would give up upon taking jobs as adventurer. There were those adventurers who yearns for something,

and fails.

But, as soon as Finia is seen, the expression like consent is shown to my face. Whether a sprite is unusual or not it's not known, but without worrying about the guy's word too much, Kitsune begins to walk to the receptionist desk.

[muuu… what is that person! Makes me wants to say things…!!!]

[don't get too angry Finia chan.. And .. At any rate, is fairy a strange being?]

[dunno, but Rishe didn't seem to mind, right?]

[.. Hmmm …]

While chatting with Finia, Kitsune arrived at the reception. There's a slightly older looking lady at the counter wearing her business smile looking at Kitsune while he took a seat. it's a woman with a soft impression and blonde hair. But it can be seen that she wore the same uniform as other receptionist [big oppai]

[yeay big oppai!]

[welcome, the exit is that way]

Yes, she had big breast, moreover a real beauty, with blond hair.. And big breasts, very mote (cute/popular disposition). For whatever she just said, she had a fashionable appearance.

Kitsune saw the beauty in his eyes and unconsciously muttered those words, but it seems the lady is offended instead.

[excuse me, I would like to register with the Guild]

[i'm ignored… in any case, please fill in this form. On behalf of someone else is ok, is it fine for you?]

[yes please do so]

[understood, your name is registered as _____ hentai]

[wait]

Somehow for this missy receptionist, Kitsune's words really touched a nerve in her, her earlier business smile is already gone somewhere.

Kitsune who can't read saw the registration form full of articles. Kitsune grabs the pen on her hand and stop her.

[could you please let go of my hand, hentai-sama…!]

[same here, big oppai sister…!]

(talking to each other politely)

While smiling face gigigigi, one hand used for writing, and the other one for grabbing. But the blond receptionist lady drew her breath to gather her strength. Kitsune realizes that and let his hand go.

[then… what is your name?]

[Kitsune]

[it is Kitsune sama…. Gender— man, right?]

[why are you asking me for that? Do I look like a woman?]

[there is some possibility, so just in case]

[i am a man]

While the missy receptionist is writing on the blank columns of Kitsune's registration form. He got a feeling that somehow they don't need to write the form is something he doesn't want to know.

In the middle of it, while watching the receptionist and Kitsune restraining each other, Finia smiled and laughed happily.

And then, the receptionist lady put her pen down after all the form is finished, and look at Kitsune with a smirk and pained business smile.

[well then, now we will make the Guild Card, until it finished I will explain about the Guild]

Hearing the receptionist lady, Kitsune nodded a bit.

[please, big oppai-san]

[could you please be careful with those way of calling, hentai-sama]

[it's because I don't know your name]

The receptionist lady looks sincerely annoyed with Kitsune that says oppai-oppai. Maybe to her the impression of Kitsune is the worst.

But she thought that it's work, and for her work to go smoothly, the receptionist lady sighed while saying her name.

[…Mia Tigris. You can call me Tigris]

[nice to meet you big oppai-san]

[do you want me to slap you to an end?]

[I am sorry!!]

Mia, with a very angry look prepares her open hand while smiling, makes Kitsune bow his head deeply. He felt if he got even one slap, he could die.

Maybe due to Kitsune's apology, Mia felt a bit better and she started explaining about the Guild. Some documents were taken by her, then she started speaking while opening the sheets with a fast and orderly manner.

[first I will tell you about Guilds and adventurer. You may already know that Guild accept requests from ordinary peoples, and introduces the job to adventurers. Afterward, the adventurers will accept the order, complete it, and will be given compensation]

[yes]

[it's in short; we Guild side will introduce you the order, and be in charge for it, and you adventurer side will accept the order, and complete it. But of course, there is a dangerous one as well]

[like magical beast subjugation or something like that, isn't it?]

[indeed, for magical beast subjugation order, we can't dispatch adventurer with weak jitsuryoku, because if the adventurer fails the quest, it would be the Guilds mistake. So, as a standard for order differentiation at the Guild, we are using class system for each adventurer]

Kutunse is nodding at Mia's explanation, and words that he never heard before [class system] appeared. With his question mark, the explanation continues.

[the meaning of class system is basically standardization of each adventurers. Whether they have enough jitsuryoku to get the order. The class system has 9 rank, A/B/C/D/E/F/G/H and as far as F rank below adventurer that are recognized by the Guild, no matter how weak the magical beast, they can't get the job.]

[I understand…. By the way, how about me?]

[for new registration, no matter your strength is, you have to start from H rank]

[I see]

Kitsune feels bit relieved hearing that. Because for H rank boundary, it is ok for them to not get order related to magical beast subjugation. It is just to earn money for life-adventurer be, so that, he doesn't need to thinking about rank.

Mia's expression perplexed at seeing Kitsune's manner, and she continue her explanation.

[this is applicable after you are at F rank, magical beast also same, they are divided by rank. For example, you are given goblin subjugation job to defeat. Goblins are settled as F rank. About that, it means that F rank group adventurers could beat them easily]

[in other words, if E rank, this E rank group adventurers can defeat them ?]

[yes, like that. Principally, magical beast with same rank adventurers, they could beat them]

[naruhodo]

[but, magical beast subjugation until d rank only. C rank above adventurers works not only for magical beast subjugation but also Mazoku (devil tribe) who had [intellectual]. Those Mazoku group are the opponent of their same level adventurers, right?]

Mazoku, again another word I never heard I appeared.. Kitsune that heard there are scarier beings than Magical Beast, hides his worry. Stronger than Magical Beast, means stronger than the big spider and the big wolf that assaulted him.

Then Kitsune only has one thing in his mind. That Miasma monster, it purposely let go of it's prey and went after him like it was normal. It had fun. There was no sign of it wanting to kill or even fight. It just wanted to have fun. It seemed interested in me because I wouldn't go down. I managed to nick it with a broken knife. It's blood is red.. Is that something called Mazoku?

"…how are those kinds of requests dealt with then?"

"Basically, for a C-rank subjugation request, at least one adventurer who is B-rank or above would be assigned and required to handle it. With an A-rank adventurer, we can be at ease even if they go alone, but then our C-rank adventurers would never have the chance to grow."

"Makes sense… Then what about those so-called A-rank Mazoku? It's not like there's a swarm of S-rank adventurers to take care of it, right?" (Note: he's saying this because she was saying it should always be one rank higher) "Indeed, A-rank Mazoku are at the same threat level as a natural disaster. Trying to go against them would be a mistake." (T/N: huge thanks to Epithetic!!!) Kitsune nodded. And, he decided to ask about the Miasma monster that he thought about.

[nee, Mia san]

[please call me Tigris]

[do you know of a Mazoku wrapped in very black Miasma?]

[as soon as Kitsune asked, the Guild become silent. Kitsune realized that and observes the atmosphere, everyone is looking at Kitsune. Coming back to Mia that also gazed upon Kitsune, she gave off a shocked face.

[what happened?]

[Akai Yoru (Red Devil)]

[what?]

[perhaps, what you are describing is … (Red Devil)… A rank a Mazoku… hidden inside Miasma, never shown the real body to another person, but you can see their red eyes in the Miasma, so it's called Red Devil]

Kitsune thought to hide his severed left eye injury when heard that.

[why do you want to know about Red Devil?]

[nothing really, I just want to know because I heard about it before]

After Kitsune said that, the atmosphere inside the Guild flowed again. Perhaps they thought that it's not about (Red Devil) showing up. In fact, they felt relieved they didn't saw it themselves.

But, human always felt alive when they feel safe… that's what they thought.

And also, opposites of what the people around Kitsune thought, in fact he just experience it just now, besides the forest, no one can imagine that.

After Kitsune told that, the explanation is only a little bit more.

[ok then…. In anycase, rank division can be informed as such]

[yes, understood]

[and another, about the magical beast subjugation and the materials, it can also be sold to the Guild, please utilize it]

[ok]

[very well, here is your Guild card, Kitsune san]

Very nice timing, since the official Guild card is done, it was given to Kitsune.

There it has his name and rank.

[with this the registration fee becomes 1 silver coin]

[ah, ok]

[i confirmed the money acceptance. I wish you good luck]

Mia bows her head deeply as a sign that the conversation is over. While squinting his eyes Kitsune saw a certain parts of the lady.

[it really is, a big breast huh…..!]

Right, it’s the big oppai that is on the table while Mia bows.

[the exit is that way hentai!]

[while standing at the blue line, Mia again showed the exit’s.

Name : Mia Tigris

Age : 22 years old female

Future note : beautiful blonde hair, big breast, receptionist girl.

Brief comment from Kitsune [big oppai].

Chapter 14

Chapter 12 Kitsune That Can’t Read The Atmosphere.

Kitsune that can’t read the atmosphere.

For now, Kitsune that finished registering decided to find some jobs. there is still time for him, that’s why for Kitsune right now, he just want to get some trivial jobs, something easy enough to do for him. to get some money enough to pay his rent today.

There is only 1 procedure to accept a job, you just pick a suitable job posting on the wall and bring it to the receptionist. then the receptionists like Mia whom he met earlier will make the job acknowledgement procedure. the job then will be given completion time limit, and for jobs that are basically helping people or H rank jobs are basically jobs that can be finished within a couple of day, that’s why these orders are given a 1 or 2 day time limit only.

Kitsune and Finia stood in front of the jobs board.

[so, what kind of job will we do for our first time?]

[let see… how about this one?]

following Kitsune’s question, Finia pointed to 1 particular job order. Kitsune looks at it closer : ◇

<H Rank Job>

Client : Miria Airin

Payment : 1 Silver coin

Job Detail : Finding missing pet

Time limit : 2 day

◇

[I can’t read the language..]

[Ah! i see!]

[Finia can read this?]

[I can! i understand Kitsune’s language and this world language! i’m Finia the Language Master!]

[Then, what kind of job is this?]

[ehmmm…..]

Kitsune heard the details from Finia and felt it’s not such a bad job. Looking for pets won’t harm him and it only needs 2 day as well, so he thought it’s good enough. and if he obtained the 1 silver coin reward, then he will obtain his registration money fee back.

[Mia cha`n! i’ll take this order!]

[Why do you have to come to me? you should go over there, please go there!]

[Please, do your job properly]

[…sigh… ok… …. i'll draw the client location for you as well]

[oh ok, …yes, thank you]

When Kitsune brought the job order to Mia, she shove him away with a sour face to other receptionist, but after Kitsune's word, she had no choice but to process his job.

When Mia was handling Kitsune's job order and drawing the location of the client, Kitsune started idle chat with Mia "come think of it…".

[by the way Mia chan, to be promoted from H to F, what must i do?]

[for that……. to be promoted to F rank is relatively easy. in this Guild there is a [Guild Leader]. the Leader will periodically held trainings and you can be promoted to F rank if your Jitsuryoku is enough. OK here is your map]

Kitsune listened to Mia and received the map while nodding Then he thought, if the recognition is during training, then without attending the training, he will forever be H rank. for Kitsune this is a good system for him.

[Since everyone wants to get F ranked quickly, then for those confident with their Jitsuryoku, they will immediately register for the training. in the past, there is also those accepted into F rank just by having spirits of confrontation (T/N: it should mean that the guy basically bash into a 1 on 1 fight to get recognized).]

[I see…]

[Kitsune-sama will also register for the training?]

[Nope, i will not join… since i'm weak]

[i see… then good luck with your job]

Kitsune turns his back after hearing Mia's word. and while checking the map, he left through the Guild's door.

◇ ◇ ◇

Mia Tigris, the receptionist looks at Kitsune figure leaving the guild while sighing.

True to his heart judgement, Mia is a popular figure. with just a glance on her blond hair and white and smooth skin, and her charming attitude to the opposite sex, in essence, Mia has a nice personality, as a person she is also a nice character, there is no flaw basically.

When Kitsune met Mia the first time, he obviously didn't realize that, Mia is a popular girl among the adventurers. there's many trying to date her. even in the past there's also many nobles proposing her, but she refused them all and it has since became a legend.

and thus, male's opinion about her charm is not a strange thing anymore.

that's why, His coming to her directly without caring about other receptionist made her thought that he is the same as other guys trying to get her.

in opposite, the first word coming out from Kitsune was, [Big Oppai]

He's the worst. Mia thought of the possibilities that Kitsune coming to her saying flattering words, making him the same with all other guys, but when she heard Kitsune's word she felt irritated and ask him to go home politely.

but, her discussion with Kitsune afterwards made her felt that there is a difference in him, that he come with no concealed intention.

True, that when Kitsune saw her breast and said the "sexual harassment" word by calling her big oppai, and she thought that he's a rude man, but she didn't felt any ill will from those words. it's like… Kitsune said those word because she is big breasted, and seems there is no other meaning behind those words.

good or bad, for Kitsune, his spoken word contains no flattery, and not even a “like” feeling towards Mia. therefore, Mia felt a strange connection for Kitsune.

If she remembers back, Kitsune is a true novice though.

without saying that the magic beast and adventurer has ranking and it’s a good thing, what if a rank A mazoku came attacking where adventurer don’t know that magic beast has ranks. for Mia it’s strange that Kitsune heard about it but didn’t ask her about it. he don’t seem to have any thoughts of facing rank A mazoku, since it’s an opponent that wrecks havocs.

[yo MIa, was that a new kid?]

while thinking about Kitsune, suddenly an adventurer came to her. Putting his arm on the counter, and looking at her breast he started talking.

she thought that this person is totally different from Kitsune, and started to serve him professionally as a receptionist.

[that was a person registering as an adventurer]

[oo… and again MIa drew in the attention of man huh.. huh… how lucky to be such a beautiful lady]

[… not really … it’s not like that. then, is there anything i can help you with?]

[hooo such coldness,,, what you can help me with?? it’s not such an important help…, so hows today? can we get something to eat once your job is done?]

[i apologize but i cannot… since there is some work to do after]

this person is E ranked adventurer named Geo Grease. he is a trash with a sole passion for woman and sake, and of course, breast. he took many magic beast subjugation job in this guild, and are good at it though he always said his

Jitsuryoku is not enough. He is often tyrannical and arrogant to people around him.

Lately, he seems to chase Mia, he visits her everyday.

[aaaa…. don’t say it like that! it’s alright…. just for a short while]

[i must decline … didn’t i say so already?]

[hehehe, don’t think of this as something bad, ok?? … just a short meal..]

For Mia that always reply professionally, Geno is a person that is always persistent. While feeling annoyed, Mia organizes her documents. using a pen to write something, so that she doesn’t have to look at Geno.

But oblivious to Mia’s obvious rejection, suddenly Geno stretched his rugged hand to reach her hand.

[Cmon it is fun… let’s go?]

[!?]

with an even lower voice than before, Geno grab Mia’s hand. it’s the same as Kitsune earlier, but this time the difference is his using his power to hold her without any intention to let go.

Mia unconsciously look at Geno because of it. when she raise her head, all she saw is Geno’s vulgar smile. and even though she pulls her grabbed hand, there is a clear difference of strength between them. she can’t let go at all.

[okk? let’s go?]

from his tone, no is not an answer.

Mia lowers her vision while gritting her teeth listening Geno’s word. to her,

Geno will not let go of her hand unless she agrees to go with him.

the other adventurer that saw this kept their silent since Geno is a rank E adventurer. the other receptionist is also looked afraid. they're not even trying to help.

[un,,,,]

in this situation, Mia can only think to accept Geno's request. it's the best way for her. though whether Geno will follow his promise to just let go of her hand and let her go safely is highly doubtful, this is making Mia restless. Mia thought that if she somehow wriggles her hand she might break loose, but there's no distance covered at all.

and then,

[Mia chaaaann, i can't understand this map at all?!!]

in front of her Kitsune who just left came back. aside from that there is a tense atmosphere building around Geno. he didn't seem to like this.

when seen, Kitsune brought the paper with map that Mia just drew. on the paper it's not clear whether it's a map, or a child's doodle. The other adventurers and receptionist thought "ah …. again…"

Mia is a very stupid person for drawing maps. all the new adventurer will be attracted by her looks, but will also return the maps she draws. and they know that Mia is really stupid when drawing something. to this Guild, it's a common thing.

but the problem right now is not that. Geno that felt Kitsune are crossing the line by just barging in irritates him. He stares at the approaching Kitsune.

[what…? whats with the atmosphere here… seems tense?]

[Kitsune san, look at that! it's flirting! Mia is flirting! na]

[what…? with that guy? with that kind of face?]

some adventurers that heard Kitsune's word laughed very hard. if you look at it carefully, other adventurer is also shaking their shoulder holding it in. those caught laughing just lowered their heads.

Mia's expression showed that she thought Kitsune's stupid and her eyes looks rolling around.

[but even so, doesn't she look like she's in trouble na? then we should help her to increase our friendship points!]

[huh? don't wanna… that guy seems very strong..? i'll lose with just 1 hit you know…]

[But even if you lose it's ok right… the important thing is you helped her right?!]

Kitsune seemed unenthusiastic with Finia's words, and of course Finia was heard by other surrounding adventurers. Even Mia heard that. For MIa it is same though, that Kitsune will end up with failure, and Kitsune can't read the atmosphere at all.

Kitsune that felt all of this is a bother started to walk out and he locked eyes with her. Her face is saying to help her as much as possible, but he averted his eyes shamelessly.

Aaaa…, Kitsune san! why did you do that!!! you were supposed to nod!!]

[Seems i have a runny nose…. you got some paper?]

[Not THATTTTT!!!]

He really can’t read the atmosphere. and since he really do have a runny nose he tried searching for tissue, but unconsciously used the paper on his hand which is Mia’s drawn map.

[Kitsunes san is the worst!! that map was drawn for you with effort became your tissue?? is that usual for you?]

[Oh, is that so..]

[Then as an apology, go and help Mia chan! come on!, shooo]

[i think this and that is a different thing we’re talking about]

[If you helped Mia chan, then you can hold her breast as you like right?]

[Yosh! ok.. that big oppai is mine]

[Give him a hard slap na! grew the relationship please!]

Seems Kitsune and Finia has decided to help Mia.

But, Mia felt that their careless. Kitsune just a beginner that has just finished registering and only a H rank adventurer, it’s impossible to fight Geno, a rank E adventurer with good Jitsuryoku. it’s just plain impossible for him.

Honestly, if possible she would like it to be finished by just Kitsune being toyed around by Geno, and only herself became the victim.

Even though he said some sexual harassment to her, but Mia just can’t forgive herself if somebody else is hurt only for helping her.. She is just a nice person.

[Kit, Kitsune sama it’s ok…… i’m fine really]

[really? Finia chan… Mia said she’s fine]

[Hah? ….. then it’s meaningless huh]

[yup]

MIa told that to Kitsune who’s coming to help her. She felt disappointed by how easy he gave up.

——– WOULD YOU GET IT FOR ONCEE!!!!!

the heart of the adventurers united for a moment.

[Ah, sorry… can i ask the map for this job?]

[eh… oh ok…. fine]

Kitsune asked the next counter receptionist, and she started to draw it.

Somehow the situation became complicated, the adventurer inside the guild is not even moving. seems this is on everyone’s mind aside from Kitsune and Finia.

———-……. whats with this condition..

Then after Kitsune received the map, he went to exit the guild… when suddenly Geno said loudly.

[hahahahahaha! whats with this guy… ain’t he’s a coward! as an adventurer, won’t you fight me? hahahahahaha!!!!]

Words coming out of him was abuse to Kitsune. nobody else stopped that laugh and provocation. nope, none at all.

[oioi, the coward… are you referring to me?]

Everybody was surprised since Kitsune smiled and cut his word.

Kitsune turns around and face him, with an eerie aura but by no means was weak looking. it's making Geno uncomfortable with Kitsune.

[I'm looking for a runaway pet right now…. Senpai will help me as a senior adventurer ok]

[ha…?]

Even though his emitting an eerie aura, but the words coming out of him was out of expectation. it's a weak keywords. looking for pets, asking support. no matter what this kind of job doesn't need support. it puts Geno into confusion.

[Then,,, oji-san… how old are you?]

[ha?? 32 years old.. problem with that??]

[with that age you're still flirting, aren't you just a hentai oji-san?]

[haa..??]

[how to say this… first of all, you are not suitable, with Mia chan. you have to know your limit… from your appearance…. age… and you're still flirting?? did i say the right words? you're getting this?

If you really are like that then maybe there's a hole in your head. honestly how big is your confidence? even if i have a huge jitsuryoku, i think, i don't want to be an adult like you… from the start, the thought that you can flirt with Mia is already a miracle right? what makes you think you have a chance?. even for just a little… if you think you can court her… you better cancel those thoughts…]

Kitsune says things as he likes. you can see Geno's face getting redder by every words… he stand at the blue line. wanting to slash…. oh no… wanted to "strike".

the adventurers around saw GEno's condition but Kitsune still looked talkative like he was mold covered buddha statue, very calm… not bubbling from his heart.

[in other words…. what were you trying to say….]

[well…]

[still talking about me]

[A—- sorry. didn't mean to!!]

Geno screamed, cutting Kitsune's words. He let go of MIa's hand and walk towards him. His face are red, his artery seems to bulge on his face, well he seems to wanted to give Kitsune a "strike" (A/N this whole strike thing seems baseball reference… dunno never played baseball) Kitsune seems to have realized that Geno is losing it. Restlessly he touched his cheek with a cold sweat.

[eh…ah… that… if you look at it closely… you're handsome you know… yes…. soo..]

[DOONNTTTTT KID WITH MEEEEE]

[—-buggggggg!?]

Geno walked towards Kitsune and launched a hard punch to him. of course with a different in experience, Kitsune that have almost zero experience can't dodge such hit. the punch landed squarely on his face and Kitsune was thrown back.

at the same time with a scream, Kitsune's body was thrown to the table's and chairs behind him. he flew to the wall, and dropped there.

[AAAAAAA!! what the hell with this shit! Cih…. enough…. i lost my appetite]

Then, maybe because he punched Kitsune, his heart felt a bit better, though he's still upset but he looked calm again. But with that, seems he also lost the will to take Mia, and left the Guild just like that.

Everyone in the guild felt relieved. the felt relieved since Kitsune was the victim, and Geno has left.

[aaa Finia chan… with this, will my relationship with Mia really improve?]

After that, Kitsune that earlier was down and couldn't even blink started to stand up and while looking for help he talked like that to Finia. of course everybody there looked at him.

[it's ok!!! with this you can hold those big breast as much as you like right!!]

[really? will Mia chan really allow me to do that?]

[Maybe!]

[Then why don't we try to ask then…. Mia chaa~nn~ please let me touch your oppai!]

Kitsune talked loudly about touching her breast while walking towards her which is a distance away. while he did that, right now what's in face of him is Mia's cold stare.

Mia chan thought of what to do with Kitsune's statement. even though she managed to be saved from Geno thanks to Kitsune, he still thought on how and what is needed to thank him. honestly, she doesn't want to allow Kitsune to touch her breast as thanks. lots of concern is stirring up her mind.

[Mia chan??]

[ee~to… actually you may not… bu..but… at the very least i would like to thank you]

[cannot huh….. o well… Finia chan, do we beg?]

[If it’s just my breast, you can touch them!]

[Sorry, i only want her breast…. touching yours is a bit too much]

[hah……!?]

After hearing Mia’s refusal, Kitsune puts a disappointed look while returning Mia’s high heel. Finia got closer and stick her chest to Kitsune. seeing that, Kitsune look at Finia seriously.

in other words he had no intention to touch hers and there is no satisfaction from it. even though he could do it, but then he would feel like he’s a scum.(T/N well… you know… flat chested and fat oriented is an opposing religion i guess) after that, relaxing his shoulder, Kitsune and Finia left the guild again. Mia that saw Kitsune’s back pulls him, but there’s no sound coming out of her.

as to why she’s holding him… she herself doesn’t understand… and also, her interest to Kitsune is getting bigger since the first time they met.

———————————————————————————-

Chapter 15

Chapter 13 : Job Completed

Kitsune that left the Guild walks towards the job giver's house while referring to the map he got without comparing it to Mia's map. Finia sat on his shoulder. through a busy street with plenty of houses with a bit of an atmosphere, he contemplates about something.

though contrary to a face that's supposed to contemplate, he's holding the map on his left hand, and strokes his right hand at his cheeks, the one Geno just hit.

[Kitsune-san, are you ok?]

[Well.. I'm not ok.. i got a headache]

[even though you put a cool face in the guild huh…?]

[no…no… because i want to pose in front of the ladies]

[Even though in the end it didn't look cool at all and you even flew by that punch huh…]

honestly, the damage he received is heavy, he looked wobbly when he walked.

Kitsune's [Resilience] can receive pain. even though he receives an attack from a rank E Jitsuryoku owner, but he's not wounded. inside the guild earlier, somehow Kitsune can held himself, although in fact parts of his body is already active. maybe his [Pain nullification] is already active so he didn't felt any pain and just took the hit.

At that time, what Kitsune was thinking about is money (T/L: who wouldn't)

about the earlier, he paid 1 silver coin for registration in the guild, but that's because he already knew the price he needs to pay beforehand, everything runs smooth, but for other prices, Kitsune is not aware of it yet. Though he can try shopping later, but as best as he can, he would like to know the living costs.

but, to ask common sense in this place will embarrass him. to ask things that you're supposed to know is suspicious. another thing, Kitsune is wearing a school uniform from another world which caused strange looks towards him.

[what should i do huh…. should i come to Rishe's and ask to be taught…]

[about what?]

[well about money usage… but i've caused enough trouble already.. if i troubles her more than this.. ah better to do this later…]

Kitsune thought to ask Rishe, but he already got 3 pc of silver coins. to ask more help from her would embarrass him.basically he just wanted money to shop, but since he don't have enough money, he dump the thought.

and then, he looks at the map while walking, and reach the job issuer house.

since there is a girl cleaning, Kitsune decided to ask about the job order.

[Excuse me]

[yes?]

[I'm a Rank H adventurer that come for Ms. Miria Airin's job request…. is she around?]

The girl turned around, and though she's not a beautiful girl, but she have a cute face. the girls seems to be cheery with a brown hair, with a three net braid, which is placed on her shoulder in the front with steady character. her age is probably 13 years old and around 1 head shorter than kitsune.

the girl, realizing that Kitsune is a Rank H adventurer bows her head.

[ah… so…sorry thanks for coming all this way! i'm the one issuing the job request. my name is Miria Airin]

[Eh.. ehm… you're the one that requested this job?]

[Yes! please lend me your support!]

Kitsune is a bit surprised… if thought from the content of the job and 1 pc silver coin reward, Kitsune assumed that the job requester was an adult, but contrary to his assumption, it's just a little girl.

Or is 1 pc of silver coin is not a big amount of money, that's what he thought, Kitsune then gave a thin smile to Miria. though Miria felt a shiver with his smile…

[Ehm… my name is Kitsune. you can call me Kitsune ok]

[Ah.. ok! Kitsune… san right…]

[Yes, then about the content of the job, what does it mean by run away pet?]

[well, yes… since we're talking while standing, why don't we come in to the house first, please!]

after the introduction, Kitsune immediately started discussing about the content of the job. but he was taken aback that Miria opened her door and took him inside. is being an adventurer gives you the right to enter someone Else house this easily?, is this allowed?…

while worrying Kitsune enters the house.

◇ ◇ ◇

the content of the job turns out to be simple.

Based on MIria's information, it's about a pet called Minimum Rabbit that runs away. Minimum Rabbit is like a pet class animal that you can keep. this rabbit is different with Kitsune's world rabbit, where this world rabbit can be placed on your palm… a very tiny rabbit… the size of a hamster would be more appropriate.

with such small size, then it’s dangerous if it were trampled upon. and seems that when it was fed, she forgot to lock the cage, and was gone by the time she realized it. her family searched the whole house but couldn’t find it. there is a possibility that the rabbit has left the house. at least that’s what they thought, so they issued a job request.

Miria’s parent also loved the rabbit so they looked everywhere, but due to their work, they can’t spend so much time to look. in other words, it’s the parent’s that will pay the reward.

[fu—n…. Minimum Rabbit… does she has a name?]

[ah… yes! her name is Mimi!]

[that’s a nice name…. i’ll try to look for her… hope we can find her fast]

[Yoroshiku onegaishimasu (T/N: ummm means looking forward for it)]

[Leave it to me, Miria chan! everything gonna be alright with this beautiful fairy, Finia!]

Kitsune listed to the explanation, then stood. Finia also looked determined, and trustworthy looking. while patting Miria’s head, Kitsune then left the house.

Minimum Rabbit, if looked with just an eye, is a small rabbit, and the one raised by Miria is called [Mimi], it seems to be an albino kind. so if it made it out of the city, there’s chance that it will be step upon by people walking by. it must be found soon.

basically for Kitsune, he thought it’s inefficient if the search is based on clues only. so he must have a plan.

[ok, for now, since Finia chan is small, please try to find it in small spaces. i will look in places with peoples.. since there is some possibilities that it’s tamed.and also, basically rabbits are stressful in a quiet environment. if it were like that there’s a high chance it will die… even now, there’s possibility that [Mimi] is already dead, so we have to be ready about it]

[ok… understood! i will look for her!]

[ah… and also,,, if it gets dark, let’s gather somewhere]

[okaayyyy]

Finia nod fiercely, and then with a resolve, flew away. she entered a small street afterwards.

Kitsune that sees her off starts his search. Minimum Rabbit… Kitsune didn’t thought that his first job will be this hard, but even so he thought to keep on going.

then, as the first step, he swings his feet forward.

at that time,

everything,

ended.

[——-n?]

under his feet… there's a strange object.. it felt squishy and in just a few millisecond, it was squished with a sound like "guuu~".

a strange hunch began to surface while his heart suddenly beats faster…

slowly he removed his feet, and there it was….

[…. so white…. hair?]

the cute pet rabbit, lies there… squished.

[…no no no… no… it's not there just now… it's not there…. i didn't mean to….]

While panicking and sweating on his cheek, Kitsune took the Minimum rabbit on his palm. is it because of his mistake that he didn't saw the foreign object and step on it?. Mimi is not fully squished and dead, but due to the pressure from Kitsune's leg, seems that the bone on it's body were broken. and from the mouth, blood was spilling, and if you see some parts were twitching… and the shaking body. it's fully in critical condition.

[Damn it… where did Finia went…]

Kitsune is out of luck, Finia that can use healing magic just flew off somewhere. if this continues [Mimi] can die.

[If it dies…. we just say it's already dying when we found it ok…..
Finia~~~chan!]

Kitsune is in critical situation, he run to find Finia.

◇ ◇ ◇

After a short run to the last area he was with Finia, and walk forward a bit. he found her in the gutter.

seeing Mimi who were half killed by Kitsune, Finia castes her Magic heal. even though Mimi was in critical condition, thanks to Finia's heal, it was completely healed and somehow return back to life.

[ahhh…. in any case, thankfully nobody realized anything about earlier situation… thank god]

[it was about to die, you have to do things rightly you know! and you want to blame other people, you're the worst!]

[seems you're more glad about the dying thing than the founding thing huh]

[working is the essence of life you know! kitsune san!]

[welll… yea… what ever, job's done!]

seeing Mimi fell asleep on his palm, Kitsune said that. Maybe it was luck for Kitsune that Mimi showed up on the right time. well…. if Finia is not around you can say he's unlucky, but even as such, now he can receive the reward.

together with Finia, Kitsune returned back to Miria's house. of course Mimi was brought by him as well. although he just left Miria house a short while ago…. by that short while he's already struggling hard.

[Miria chaa~n, we found her—]

[Huh? Kitsune san, isn't this a bit too fast!?]

[Because it she was playing around here, that i was able to catch it]

[ah, re… really… really…. aaa… Mimi… thank goodness!!]

The door of Miria's house is wide open when he called her, and her face looks surprised. but, when looking at Mimi in Kitsune's hand, she smiled gently

spontaneously.. maybe she felt relieved.

Kitsune had trampled Mimi and almost made her died… he hid that fact. in other words, no way he'll ever say that.

To get the reward after finishing the job, the signature of the job giver must be obtained, and brought to the receptionist at the guild. afterwards he will get a "job complete" and the reward.

Kitsune that doesn't understand that was explained by Miria, and given her signed sheet.

[so if i give this to Mia chan then my job will be completed right?]

[Yes, Thank you for finding Mimi! Kitsune san!]

[Y… Yes… li…like…. likewise]

Seeing her innocent smile and gratitude, all that flows to his heart. and since he did nearly squashed Mimi, he felt sinful. but anyway, the job is finished, and after finding compensation, he must find a place to stay.

[Ehmm…. if you have any trouble, whatever it is, you can ask me anytime]

by saying that, Kitsune felt he ‘shared’ his sin. Miria’s eyes is still shining, and Kitsune didn’t look at her eyes. Well.. he just couldn’t.

[Then, See you again]

[ya! good luck!]

after saying that, Kitsune rushed out of Miria’s house.

◇ ◇ ◇

Kitsune was running away by coming back to the guild. he met Mia when he entered but he come to the receptionist that gave him the map. “Mia is over there right?”, she said that after seeing Kitsune, and Kitsune didn’t realize that. It’s not that Kitsune didn’t like Mia, but if it’s just Receptionist, anyone will do for him. so this time he came back to the receptionist that gave him the map.

but even so, Mia thought whether Kitsune will approach her desk and he felt that Kitsune didn’t understand her. well.. He didn’t understand it, and she puts an annoyed looks.

[Ano (umm here)… please make the “job completed”]

[EH? ah… ok…]

[Is there something wrong?]

[N… No… please hold on a moment]

the Receptionist takes a glance at Mia, and hurriedly process the reward after listening to Kitsune. Miria's job is finished… she stamp the documents, and put the paper with Miria signature into one folder.

While Kitsune is processing his reward, and were waiting for the receptionist going inside, he was daydreaming, but somehow felt a stare. he looked at Mia …..Jiii~~~, there's Mia cold glance at Kitsune.

[Nn? whats up Mia chan]

[No, there is nothing at all, Hentai-Sama!]

[eh eh? you forgot my name? it's Kitsune, Kitsune you know!!?]

[Dunno]

Listening to Kitsune, Mia put stuck up face and throw her face aside. Kitsune tilts his head confused at Mia's attitude, why is she doing that… it makes him think, and then he decided not to be hasty. maybe he somehow say or do "sexual harassment" again so he is hated again.

Kitsune look away from Mia that looks like sighing. Mia looks outside while glancing at Kitsune, But Kitsune already looks away from her. looking at that, Mia felt disappointing and again took a deep breath (sighing "fuuu~~~").

this attitude makes the people around the guild, including the other receptionists looks at Mia because she rarely display this kind of attitude. they're looking while surprised though Mia didn't realized it as well.

[Thank you for the wait! here is your reward, 1pc silver coin]

[Yes, thank you! Yes Finia chan! i finally got some money for our livess!]

[Yess Kitsune san!!]

The lady receptionist that came back to her deck gave the silver coin to Kitsune and Finia that looks very excited. honestly 1 pc silver coin is not that big money for an adventurer's reward. if you can complete a magic beast subjugation job for rank F adventurer, the money they can get is a lot more.

seeing those two, the blue haired receptionist that sits next to Mia blushed, and mumbled happily.

[Cu…Cute….]

Hearing that, again Mia's face became sour.

Well at any rate, with this, Kitsune had a good start as an adventurer.

End of 13.

Chapter 16

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chapter 14: Start line

As an H rank adventurer、Kitsune who was able to achieve his first request、has put the silver coin as his reward into his pocket。

As his tension in which he became too happy from obtaining the reward earned by his own power fell、Kitsune is now thinking about his next action。The reward was obtained、and if the money that has been received from Rishe will be added then the money he has right now would be 3 silver coins。Though he didn't understand if this amount is enough to get some lodging、there was still time、it was still fine to receive another request、and it was also fine to search for lodging in ease to get some rest。

However、to find lodging or to receive another request、there was something that he knows that is top priority。He thought about that while on the way to receiving another request、to get to know the value of the currency。

How much money is needed to stay at the inn、how much money is needed for a single person's everyday life needs、is what he needs to know。Only in former world, The sense of money values of Kitsune is comprehensible by the decimal system。10 pieces of 10 yen is 100yen、100 pieces of 10 yen is 1000 yen、and that was how it was easy and simple。

However、he doesn't know any other coins of this world other than silver coins、and he's not sure if there are bills in this world。(TLN: paper money)「…… this can't be helped、First of all let's find someone who『doesn't mind to explain some common sense』」

「Kitsune-san、what will you do now？」

「Yes、Let’s get some lodging at an inn for the time being。Is the place where Rishe-chan is staying alright、and she knows of my circumstances too」

「I see！」

Finia approved of the standard-like decision of Kitsune。She has already sat on the right shoulder of Kitsune that has turned into her fixed position、while having a bright smile floating in her face。

Kitsune who was thinking of how pleasing the sight of that girl was、moved in front of Mia。Though the girl in the information desk next to Mia had a disappointed expression in her face、he didn’t mind that occurrence for the time being。

Though Mia who Kitsune appeared in her presence still had a sour like expression in her face、she still sent a glance to him while looking up because she is sitting on a chair。She seemed to have a will for only talking。

「That’s about it Mia-chan、I’ll be coming back alright。Thank you for teaching me various stuff」

「……No、I’m just doing my job」

「Yep、well even so」

「……is that so」

「See you again！ Mia-chan！ This is a thanks from me！」

when Kitsune and Finia finished saying their thanks to Mia、they began to walk to the entrance of the guild。Mia’s expression somehow softened because of that occurrence a little while ago。Her glance pierces the back of Kitsune、which she seems to be holding a little bit of interest now。

And an evidence to that is when Kitsune goes out of the entrance of the guild and disappears、she would vomit a heavy sigh。

◇

「Let’s return to the inn a while ago for the time being」

「Okay！」

Kitsune and Finia went out of the guild and is now facing the direction to the inn where Rishe is staying。Did they remember the way to that place but they still unhesitatingly continued to walk。

Since daytime has already passed, the customers entering in the restaurant also has passed the peak.。The lively town was now somehow looking like it’s settling down。In the people who comes and goes by、there are people just live their lives normally and there are people who opens up shops and devotes their time in businesses too。

There are also people who wears an adventurer like aura and there were also knight-like people who were overflowing with a justice sensation 。When thinking about Kitsune being surrounded by those kinds of people、he became a little timid。

Then、a strange person has been found。A guy with a scary face was pulling a cart while walking。If it was only to such extent then Kitsune wouldn’t mind it but the problem was what was on the cart。A cage is placed on the cart and inside were several men and women of all ages。Almost all the people inside had empty eyes、and they all wore the same worn out clothes。

Moreover、there are also people in there who were obviously not human either。There were people who had animal ears on their head and also had tails。Perhaps、those might be from the race they call Beast people。

「……that、what might that be?」

「Hmm、Who knows？ I don’t know」

Passing each other、the man with a scary face went to the direction on my back。As a possibility Kitsune thought of、the people inside that cave was most likely what they called『Slaves』、and perhaps they had been sold by someone、or maybe there was a reason for their enslavement、in which they have fallen into slavery but those weren’t the ones that Kitsune minded about。

Originally、there were no slavery system in the country called japan。Of course there was oppression、but it was a peaceful country who hated the act of entrapment、and so the reality of this slave system has not been easily accepted a bit by Kitsune.

「Well、there’s no positive proof……However if there are slaves then……」

Though Kitsune hasn’t easily accepted the matter of slavery in his mind、he also thought that this maybe exactly good at the same time。Slaves、an existence where all of their rights are given to the owner。And、this world’s slavery is a very convenient matter for Kitsune or in general、for『the inhabitants of this world』。

In short、he thought that did a problem exist wherein he would purchase a slave and learn from them of the common sense in this world 。Since their rights will be taken、they’re unlikely to reveal his secret、and he will learn the know-hows and behaviors in the different world。It truly is a very convenient existence for the Kitsune as of now。

「A slave、huh」

「Hm？」

「No、it’s notihing」

The top priority right now is to get some lodgings。For now he just bundled up the thought about the slave and so on as an option and threw it away to the back of his mind。

While thinking so、they walked for a while、until they reached the inn where Rishe was staying。If you'd accept the letters Finia has read on the signboard、『Inn of Dusk』would seem to be it's name。

When they have entered inside、the dining room and the reception desk that has been seen once caught their eyes。Several inn guests went down to the dining room because it was the time for snacks and enjoyed their time with idle chats。

「Welcome、are you a customer？」(TLN: Gochuumon wa usagi desu ka?) Thereupon、the woman who seems to have a good mood at the counter spoke out to me。Her seemed to be in her 40s、and she wore an atmosphere of being easy to talk to。Perhaps、she is the shopkeeper and the proprietress of this place。

Kitsune stepped up to the counter and stood in front of the proprietress。

「Yes、but first i want to hear on how much is a stay for 1 night though」

「Oh、a one night stay here is 650 rupi」(TLN: Or is it Rupies? Meh who cares)
「……」

Rupi？ What's that、I completely don't understand ☆

Kitsune neatly floated a faint smile that seems to understand-like expression。For the time being、he took out 1 silver coin and places it on the counter。

「Will this、be sufficient？」

「Hmm、1 silver coin huh……with this you'll be able to stay for a half month、so what shall you do？」

「Seriously？ Then that please」

「Alright、then your change will be 250 okay」

The proprietress took the silver coin on the counter and put it away in the place where they put the coins which made a *Charin* sound effect。About 25 coins made from stone material were given to him。

She also brought out a key to a vacant room and left it at the counter。

「Okay、room 207。it's the room in the interior of the second floor。Even though this hotel serves meals too、the meal fee is a different fee。If you're good at cooking then we can lend the kitchen to you but if you want us to serve you a meal then for half a month it will be 3000 rupi」

「Then with this」

「1 silver coin huh、then here is your 7000 rupi change」

Seven coins made from copper has been returned to me this time。Here at last、Kitsune has finally understood the values of money in this world。

From the name of the Silver coin、the coin made of copper is a copper coin and the coin made from stone is a stone coin。When converted into the Japanese Yen、1 silver coin is 10,000 yen、a copper coin is 1000 yen、and a stone coin is 10 yen is what it seems to be。『Rupi』is to the sense of Kitsune、can be changed to『yen』。

3000 rupi、in other words 3000 yen、in which would be 3 copper coins。Therefore with 10,000 rupi、which is 10,000 yen、which is 1 silver coin is used、then 7000 rupi which is 7000 yen came back to me in the form of 7 copper coins。Though he's thinking that the meal fee is cheap、well he gave his consent for the extra charge since it's a different world from his。

650 rupi for half a month、in other words 650 yen × 15 days is 9750 yen、and when I paid with 1 silver coin (10,000 yen)、then 250 rupi got back to me。Though he was anxious if there were no 100 yen、well that might be common

sense here。(TLN: I hate math. Next time I see math in any chapter, I'll just let Kuma Otou-san translate it) Though he doesn't know where there are other coins other than silver ones、first of all he should be thanking Rishe for receiving 30,000 yen in Japanese yen。

「Thank you very much」

「Breakfast is served at 7 to 9 o'clock、lunch is served at 12 to 14 o'clock、and because we don't serve food at 18 to 20 o'clock then you should be careful」

「Okay」

Kitsune received the change and key and said his thanks。He went upstairs to his room afterwards。

◇

In the bedroom、Kitsune sat on the bed which was inside the room。Finia leaped into the soft bed and started to rollover happily。

「Now then……Time to rest for once」

While Kitsune muttered so、he started to think。The matter about the money at the present time has been acquired and understood from it's values and he also understood that there is no difference with the concept of time from his former world。A little while ago、From the word of the proprietress who said the time for the meal, he took into consideration that it was quite the same as from his former world。

The price of a single night stay is 650 yen、though isn't that too cheap？ but in spite of Kitsune thinking of that、well there's a bed, a table and some furniture、but the room isn't quite too wide。It's not a service、since it's an in where the true purpose is lodging。Even if one thinks that it's foolish for the price to be so cheap but that might be common sense to this world。

However、since lodgings are guaranteed now、he can manage to breathe in

ease now。

「Haa……Finia-chan」

「Hm？」

「For the time being、let’s decide our policy from here onward」

「Okay！」

「First of all、since from today onward we’ll be living here、I think that we should handle requests until we can earn money so we can return Rishe’s money」

「Yep、it would be bad to not return a debt owned！」

「I don’t want to work afterwards」

「THIS LONER NEET！」(TLN: N.E.E.T. = not in employment education or training) A magnificent display of acting like a useless person by Kitsune。Even Finia had to make a come back with all her best。

「Just kidding……for the time being、let’s look for the method to return to my former world」

「……okay」

「Therefore for the sake of that then our most extreme priority is for me to not die。It is not separately significant to the matter of winning in a fight、but it’s important to survive even if a fight happens」

「Indeed、which means that it’s training right！ Training until you become unparalleled！」

「Nope that's not it。I can't seem to expect anything from the ability level of my offensive power……but because there seems to be potential for my defensive powers instead、then I'll just raise my defensive power！ With that、it would be settled with me receiving no damage no matter what is done to me」

「Your motivation to fight is zero huh！ it's rather refreshing！」

Kitsune has secretly peeped at the statuses of all the people that he has met up to now。Therefore、when comparing his own status to them、he examined whether his status is alike with normal people。For example、Miria who is a normal person and also a child、

◇Status◇

Name: Milia・Ailin

Gender: Female　Lv8

Strength: 30

Stamina: 60

Resilience: 10

Dexterity: 20

Magic: 30

◇

Though her skills have been omitted、her status was greater than the inferior Kitsune who was higher in terms of level。

And Mia who grew up as a normal person、

◇Status◇

Name: Mia・Tigurisu

Gender: Female　Lv14

Strength：50

Stamina：80

Resilience：10

Dexterity：40

Magic：50

◇

This is what it becomes to。Though her level is higher than Milia、there were no difference with Milia's。Kitsune set up the expectation of the extent seen to this conduct of himself。

Perhaps, the level goes up even if battle experience is not piled up。Maybe one's ability level would go up when one's body and knowledge grows。However in that case、battle experience would make the expansion of the ability value from the level that goes up very little。Therefore、Lv4 Kitsune who has raised his Ability level with battle experience exceeds greatly than Milia and Mia。

And now、lastly is the E rank adventurer Jeno who was involved with Mia。

◇Status◇

Name: Geno・Greas

Gender:Male　Lv47

Strength：1160

Stamina：1080

Resilience：100

Dexterity：750

Magic：270

◇

It’s high。Though the skill was omitted, he seemed to have acquired a lot of useful skills for combat。With that、his level was 10 times larger than Kitsune。Each ability value did not differ in the level but was also high。

However In the case of magic, it was lower than the others。Perhaps、people who has a strong body would become a overwhelming power type fighter。People with high level magic would perhaps become wizards and make good use of their magic by performing it in battle is what his conjecture thought。This might apply to an individual’s talent。

Thus、Kitsune has his attention mostly on his『Resilience』of his status。Though Kitsune was level 1 but his『Resilience』was 100。In spite of that、the level 47 Jeno’s『Resilience』was at the same value of the initial value of Kitsune’s。

This perhaps、Kitsune’s『Resilience』maybe his talent is what he is convinced。

Therefore、Kitsune thought about it。His own combat policy、which is、

———to obtain the Resilience that can prevent any attack

In doing so、the『I won't lose』attitude could be brought in a battle。If he does so、while he is dealing with the other party's attack、he would be able to run away。If it is possible to run away、then it is possible for him to survive。And if it is possible to survive、then the possibility of returning to his former world would be tied to that too。

「However、there would surely be opponents who would be impossible to escape to or have overwhelming strength。I don't want to fight as much as possible、but if it is needed to fight then not fighting would be bad……」

「Yes…… It is so」

「Therefore at that time、I want Finia-chan to deal with the decisive blow」

「Decisive blow？ what do you mean？ though it sounds very awesome」

「I want Finia-chan to be my Strength、especially when it's support attacks while I'm running away 、and occasionally being the strength to defeat the other party at that time、なって欲しいんだ」

In the case of Kitsune having not to die with the use of his Resilience、Finia will be the Strength that shall defeat the other party。Originally、『Resilience』is not easy to raise if the person doesn't have an aptitude for it、then in that case, Finia-chan who had a considerably high strength、should be the one to excel in that ability to thoroughly annihilate the other party 。

「Okay……okay I understand！ This beautiful fairy Finia-chan shall annihilate everything for you！ I won't even let oxygen near you！」

「Wouldn't I die with that？ Won't I get annihilated with that？」

「Leave it to me！」

「……Hahaha、You're really so reliable」

Finia who can always have an energetic smile like a sunflower。While thinking so、Kitsune smiled wryly。The policy has been decided, a combat policy that uses the maximum power of each aptitude。

First of all is to secure lodgings、and finally to set up a starting line。Hereafter、Kitsune shall start the course of action to return to his former world。

Chapter 17

Chapter 15: A steady week

For about one week after that、Kitsune spent his every day handling requests as an H rank adventurer。Though he has already secured his daily needs for about half a month already、but it's necessary to earn the cost for their every day living and he wants to secure some money to return it to Rishe as soon as possible。

Helping out in a shop、Luggage carrying、Taking care of old people、Looking after children、Being an employee for a day、Cleaning activity of the town、and other various requests have been handled by Kitsune。H rank requests are easy therefore、his request accomplishment rate is at 100% at present。

For one to become an adventurer、he is basically on the path of the adventurer for very wonderful reasons(He yearns for it and it's his dream)。The are also easy work too、but though there are people who just wants money, they also want to complete either way as an adventurer。

They want to complete it as an adventurer、which means that they aspire to raise their ranks and complete more requests。

but despite of that、

A man known as Kitsune、doesn't have any intention of slipping out from H rank as an adventurer。In a standard way、though it's a principle of the guild that the guild's director which is a former adventurer has to acknowledge someone for them to raise their rank to F by subjugating monster、and for H rank adventurers, it's truly easy to become G rank。They just need to have the will to raise their rank to F and participate in the training that the former adventurer Director opened。A singe rank can only be raised by this。

But even so、Kitsune didn’t even try to participate in that training。There’s no wonderful thing in staying as an H rank adventurer、and one would only need to continue on handling the requests that no one would take。The weakest adventurer of all。

Therefore、Kitsune who came to this world received strange glances、and it became more obvious each day。

Why isn’t he aiming for something higher?、is what not only adventurers but also all of the receptionists in the adventurer guild thought of。

「Wha？」

As what has been said a while ago、All of the adventurers———excluding kitsune are working hard for their ambitions、as they wear the appearance of an adventurer that they aspire of、and they make an effort to exceed their yearning everyday。Is that their reason?、in which they draw out their idea of an adventurer as an important person who won’t hand over their pride and confidence that they all want to be。

Therefore、from the proud adventurers like that、they were angry towards Kitsune who’s not like an adventurer。He is an existence that made them irritated。

「That is why、we won’t admit the likes of you to be an adventurer。If you plan on defiling the name of adventurers any further then stop being an adventurer this instant」

That is why the adventurers who came out to Kitsune says so like it is only natural。

「Who’re you？ I don’t know you to tell you the truth、though I wasn’t thinking of knowing you too」

Today、there is a single man who is standing on the way of Kitsune who came

to the guild。He's not a boorish big man but he is just a young man。Perhaps、he's several years older than kitsune with a distinctive character、and if Kitsune doesn't look up then he won't be able to match up with his eyes、while having a sword lowered in his waist which is obviously aiming at him in which he sensed it even with his untrained eyes。

He understood with only a single glance、with his status of course。

「I know your story well。As an H rank adventurer、you would just take on H rank requests everyday。A man who would flatter the people of town and eat leftovers like a rat ————Kitsune」

「One would die if they won't eat even leftovers you know？ I'm such a man」

「That is why you are a failure as an adventurer！ An adventurer is a person of freedom、who aspires for a higher place、hunts monsters、and is a sublime existence above all！ It's not a road for a man like you can tread on！」

Kitsune understood those words。

He is an adventurer that has a strong yearning。That is why、he couldn't forgive he's own actions。

「Well、therefore what about it……」

「What did you say？」

「What difference are you saying about me and you？」

「What？」

What about it。Kitsune rebutted so。He would look for food regardless of it being leftovers or anything for the purpose of living day by day。It would be bad

for Kitsune to die、for the promise he made with Shinozaki Shiori too、and that is the only thing that he cannot surrender。He also hasn't returned the hospitality that he has accepted too so he has no room to complain。

「Though you seem to have extraordinarily gave your whole mind in becoming an adventurer apparently、but how much is your rank？ As what I know、it's H rank」

「……E rank」

With Kitsune's question、that person answered so。E Rank、he's able to take on requests to subjugate monsters and which means he's a person who has raised his rank once。Of course、he's stronger than Kitsune several times。

However、Kitsune isn't bothered by it。In case of the standpoint、he couldn't deny his only way of living。

「E rank、isn't that amazing。But、what is the difference with E rank and H rank？ what is the difference of helping citizens and subjugating monsters？」

「Wha…… ！ ？」

「If you only love to hunt monsters then go outside and hunt them as much as you want、and if you want to become a sublime existence then you should have become a knight、so what is the reason for you to take on those requests？」

Kitsune's mind has already been strengthened after he met that Miasma monster。

(TLN: And Missere meow's heart has already fell for that Miamsa monster)

He has already experienced death and that is why he has lost the feeling of getting scared by anything。Therefore、to him who is obstructing his way of living、and at the point where he recognized him as an enemy、this skill would be invoked。

———『Eerie Constitution』

The man who stands in the presence of Kitsune、felt the change of atmosphere of Kitsune、and felt fear towards him。He shyly took two steps back to make a distance from him that much。

「You subjugate monsters for the sake of the people right？ that is a magnificent and honorable action is what I think too「Tha-、そThat's right…… ！ An adventurer is an existence like that ！」

「Then、are the small worries of the people trivial to you？ While all of you are risking your life in subjugating things I know not of、I have been solving the citizen's small worries。So are you telling me that those actions that I've been doing doesn't matter？」

「……」

With Kitsune's words、The atmosphere became more heavy and no one could do a rebuttal。However、their feet trembled on the pressure that Kitsune is releasing、any they didn't want to be related to it because of the overpowering of Kitsune to them who were weak。

「If in the case that you are thinking like that」

「What are you saying……」

「Aren't you the one who is a failure of being an adventurer？」

What is wrong with looking for leftovers。What is wrong with getting along with the citizens。If everyone says that those actions make you a failure as an adventurer、then he would be amazed from the silly and absurd brain of those people。

Weak people will die、they would easily die。That is why he desperately eats and lives。

「……Wha…… ！」

No man could say any objection to Kitsune。They couldn’t say anything。However、to the people who thought that he’s a failure in being an adventurer、they received the shock of them being a failure in being an adventurer。

An adventurer is a man of freedom、sublime、and a strong existence、is what they thought。No、that fits it in fact。However、he has lost sight of something。To whose sake are they free、for whose sake are they sublime、and for whose sake do they become a strong existence。That is what he means。

If Kitsune says so、then the purpose of becoming is for the sake of someone、for the sake of protecting people、and for the sake of protecting lives。People wouldn’t see any sublimity from a person who is just strong。Only the people who use that strength in the correct way are the sublime ones。That is what he taught to them。

「Then、Since I have more work to do。I won’t overlook any troubled person、Since I’m, you know、a youth who is overflowing with justice」(TLN: And savageness…..cuz that was SAVAGE!) Kitsune who says so、passed over at the side of that guy while wearing a faint smile in his face。(TLN: AKA Troll face/Grin) In that situation、he patted the shoulder of the stupefied guy。

Every guy couldn’t answer back to Kitsune even at the last minute。

◇

Kitsune who passed through the side of the man beside him、proceeded to Mia’s direction while leaving that stupefied guy。When Kitsune receives requests、he would alternatively call upon Mia-chan or the blue haired girl beside her。This time seems to be Mia。

「Hey Mia-chan、good morning」

「A good morning to you too……Umm Kitsune-sama、haven’t you overreacted for a bit？」

「Eh、what do you mean？ Though I only said good morning to you」

「……I see……By the way、Is Finia-sama not with you？」

Kitsune who’s acting like he doesn’t understand it is overlooked so Mia gave up pursuing the topic。

And after looking at Kitsune’s right shoulder、Mia asked as so。Finia who’s always at the shoulder of Kitsune wasn’t there。she felt lonely since a part of an everyday spectacle is missing。

Kitsune smiled wryly as he answered Mia。

「Finia-chan is still sleeping」

「Sleeping……？」

「Yes、inside this」

While saying so、Kitsune pointed at his mask。Finia is considerably weak in the morning when actually sleeping、but though Finia stays up late with the reason of her not needing any sleep、she slept in the mask on a whim last night。Therefore、she’s still asleep。

However、Mia who has heard of that got surprised and opened her eyes widely。

「In a word……Finia-sama is an idea type……is what you are saying……？」

「Ah」

Kitsune recalled it。The explanation of Finia on what her type is。

There are no distinction between the Idea kind and the Natural kind、but the

idea kind is a super scarce existence that 10 only exists in this world。She's asleep in the mask、in other words the mask is the medium for Finia。That is what indicates that Finia is an idea type。

「……」

「……」

Both of them became silent。Did the adventurers who were teaming up on Kitsune hear them、but they seem to have not heard it。However、Mia and the blue haired receptionist girl who was beside her have perfectly heard of it。

「No、you're wrong。I didn't mean that she's sleeping inside the mask、since I meant that she's sleeping between the space of my head and this mask」

「Ah、is that so……You're right」

「……Hou」

Kitsune decided to deceive them for the time being。Standing out is extremely troublemsome、and when he thought of the case of people knowing that Finia is an idea type of the super rare species、then that wouldn't be a favorable development for him。

Kitsune knocks on the mask to wake up Finia。And when he took of the mask、while in the way of not showing the inside of the mas to Mia and the others, he took out the sleepy Finia from the inside of the mask。He picked her up with the collar of her clothes and showed her to Mia。

Then、Mia vomited a sigh of relief。Though they thought if they were right、but it seems like they were wrong。

「Finia-chan、we're receiving a request」

「Nnn～……please wait for about 5 more seconds……HNM！ Good morning Kitsune-sama！Finai-chan has awakened！」

「Yeah good morning to you too。Then、I won't be working again for today」

「Eeh、but didn't we have enough money collected already。I want to gradually move my body soon！」

「Yes、but since I'm an indoor type then I really don't want to move」

「Though you're saying you're an indoor type but it's more like you're a Hiki NEET！ That's a full scale useless person you know！」

The two of those、is the scene that Mia always sees while she laughs a bit。For this whole single week、she has become accustomed to the quarreling of these 2。You can also say that this is also an enjoying scene to her。ある意味一日の楽しみになっていると言っても良い。The sight of these two's negotiation is also amusing。

「Hm……then what shall we do？」

「Let's go out and play！ Let's enjoy this day while forgetting our work！」

「Ah……that's right、a break is important too」

「Yeah！」

「Then let's also invite Rishe and go to someplace where delicious food is」

「I did it！」

With Kitsune's words、Finia is pleased。Within this week、Kitsune hasn't met Rishe even though they were staying in the same inn。Maybe it's because he would quickly go out of the inn in the morning and would come back late。Though he would eat breakfast and dinner、he would ask lunch from the landlady and a lunch box would be prepared for him。

Therefore、Kitsune couldn't return the money he borrowed from her。since he felt intimidated for about a whole week、so he thought that there wasn't bad to not return it yet。

「Yeah、Then let's assume that this day is a rest day today」

「Agreed！ You could occasionally make a good decision！ Kitsune-san too！」

「That's not you praising me right？」

「Yeah！」

「You're admitting it yourself！？」

While Kitsune was making a comeback with what Fina said、he made a wry smile while looking at the happy face of Finia。Even if they would say this and that、Kitsune liked the happy face of Finia。

「Rishe……-sama huh？」

Mia has joined the conversation。

「Yep、she's my benefactor」

「She seems to be a girl based on her name」

「Yeah、she's a girl in the same age as me」

「……You seem to be fairly intimate with her」

「Are you jealous？」

「I.AM.NOT.JEALOUS。Since you're obstructing my work、please go home if you're not receiving a request」

Mia suddenly turned into Work mode and she gave Kitsune a business like answer。What can be said about it、she seems to be in an ill mood。

Recently、after he drove away Jeno who has been courting her、Mia frequently became ill humored。Kitsune couldn't understand why would Mia's attitude become like that。The oly thing that came to his mind is that he declared in her presence that she's has big breasts、got struck hard by Jeno、asked her to let him massage her breasts、but all he thought about are useless stuff。He didn't understand more and more。He got more depressed from it。

For the time being、he asked Finia for the reason。

「Finia-chan、it seems like Mia-chan is angry？」

「There are various types of girls you know！ Stop trying to investigate and stand up！ It must be her menstruation！」

「Don't reveal it、isn't that the grand secret of all women、if that's true then that would cause the public exclusion for Mia-chan」

「You've done it now！」

「Inidently does Finia-chan have that physiology too？」

「Wha-、What are you trying to make a girl say！ That's a bad thing to do Kitsune-san！ A man who doesn't have any delicacy won't be popular you know！」

「Even Finia-chan doesn't understand me」

Kitsune realized that he would get more tired if he asks Finia-chan、so he vomited a sigh。

For the time being、work shall be discontinued this day and they should return

to the inn and invite Rishe to play。

「I'll be going now Mia-chan、Let's meet up tomorrow too」

「Good bye！」

「……Yes」

Mia who hasn't sent a single glance, Kitsune has been seen off。When she has confirmed that Kitsune is gone from the guild、a sullen look has floated in her face。

Though she doesn't understand why、she felt anger in her chest。After that, for the whole day、while shooting out an angry aura、she handled the adventurers that came for requests like that。

Chapter 18

Kitsune 16: To Become Stronger

Kitsune and Finia who returned to the hotel faced towards under Rishe early。When they were ran away from the forest into this country、Kitsune remembered the place where he first awakened after that。Kitsune with Finia went up the stairs、and immediately stood at the front of that room。

And after confirming the pocket which had 3 silver coins in it、he knocked at the door。

「Excuse me~」

「Aah、I'll come out now———eh……Hahaha、it's been a week now、Kitsune」

「Yep、glad to see you again。We came here to return the money we borrowed」

「I'm glad to see you again Rishe！ Have you been alright？」

Rishe who opened the door and came out made a smile as soon as the face of Kitsune was seen。And after they exchanged their words of greeting for a long time、Finia took out her small hand while matching it up with Rishe and thye both exchanged a High touch。(TLN: Original word is High touch so I'll leave it at that but it's high five.)「Yeah、I've been waiting for you。Talking while standing here is a little bit..、so let's go inside」

「Then I shall excuse myself」

Rishe opened the door wide and invited Kitsune inside。Kitsune placed Finia on his shoulder and stepped inside the room。

The room had the same arrangement as the one Kitsune is also using、and there was the spectacle seen while he woke up from before。Though it was the same as their room、but there was this feeling of nostalgia、maybe because Rishe was there。

Kitsune sat on the chair that Rishe presented while Rishe also sat on the bed。

「Then、though it's already late……For the second time、thank you for saving us」

「Ah、my pleasure。I'm glad that you two are energetic」

Kitsune took out 3 silver coins that he prepared in his pocket and handed it over to Rishe。Rishe receives it and put it in her bosom Obligation incurred through accepting hospitality、though she didn't think that the money wouldn't be returned already、but since the money was able to be returned、Kitsune seems to have become eased somewhat too。Finia who sees those two like that made a smile like a sunflower。

「And、though I thought I would come over to play with Rishe-chan」

「What？」

「We easily handled requests continuously for a week like this、so we thought that we would take a break for today。So it became a talk where we should ask Rishe-chan to join us」

「A-、ahh……is that so、but this is troubling……I was thinking of training later though……」

Though Rishe is being invited by Kitsune、Rishe seems to be busy。She's also

wearing clothes like she’s gonna go out for a while when looking at her。The eyes of Kitsune was attracted to those hips that had a sword attached to it the first time they met and a small bag is worn on her shoulder。It’s most likely a first aid kit with medical treatment tools inside of it。

It looks like it would be impossible for her to come and play。Kitsune judged so。To make her original schedule a mess、he thought that he should forcibly take her out to play。

「Then you just have to take Kitsune with you in training！」

However、Finia proposed it so like that at that time。

Kitsune and Rishe were both astonished。However、Finia didn’t care and continued to stick out he chest like she’s implying that it’s a good idea。

「Kitsune-san hasn’t tremendously strengthened at all from all the one whole week of helping！You should train a bit with this chance！」

What Finia said is quite right。After Kitsune ran away from the forest last time、he didn’t raise a single level at all。Therefore his level is still at 4。I should raise my defense power to the extent of me not dying、is what he said but he didn’t even make any effort on doing it。

Kitsune listened to the words of Finia and secretly invoked『Status Judgement』on himself。

◇Status◇

Name: Naginata Kitsune

Gender: Male　Lv4

Strength: 40

Stamina: 60

Resilience: 180

Dexterity: 50

Magic: 20

Title:『Other World Person』

Skill:『Pain null Lv1』『Eerie Constitution』『Different global language translation』『Status Judgement』『Fortitude』『Overpowering』『Near death experience』

Peculiar Skill :???

PT Member: Finia(Fairy)

◇

When the skill『Fortitude』is invoked、though the coercion enters to all throughout the status、time is usually a numerical value that adventurers are anxious about excluding the status of the tolerance in which it is not.

◇Status◇

Name: Finia

Gender: Female　Lv11(↑8UP)

Strength: 310

Stamina: 540

Resilience: 135

Dexterity: 430

Magic: 5200

Title:『Fairy of Unrequited love』

Skill:『Light Magic Lv3』『Magic recovery Lv4(↑2UP)』『Healing magic Lv3』『Flame Magic Lv4(↑1UP)』『Body StrengtheningLv1(NEW!)』

Peculiar Skill:???

PT Member: ◎Naginata Kitsune

◇

「Huh？」

Finia's status has improved from the last time I saw it。The ability level of her Magic is now twice or more from the previous one。Moreover、her『Magic Recovery Lv4』and『Flame magic Lv4』skills have gone up a level。Furthermore, a new skill has been added to her。

Finia basically participated with Kitsune's action、and she shouldn't have had any time to be apart from him in this whole week。Nevertheless why has her level and ability level gone up？

Kitsune can be seen with a shocked expression while looking at Finia。Then、Finia has who noticed such a Kitsune made a confused face and opened her mouth。

「It's because I don't need sleep！ While Kitsune-san was asleep、I quietly polished up my magic and trained with the wolves as my opponent outside！」

「I see……Finia-chan、you shouldn't do those kind of dangerous things」

「Eh？」

However、Kitsune hid his eyebrow from the action of Finia。It's not like getting stronger is wrong。However、Finia saying that『I fought against monsters』while he was sleeping is what he couldn't forgive。If she became careless、her life might be the price at that stake。

「What would you do if by chance you encountered that monster？ Don't do something reckless like that again」(TLN: Kitsune talking about Miasma monster….which is my love)「Ye-、yes……I'm sorry」

That is why Kitsune scolded Finia。They met in the forest、has been partners for a long time till now、and if she's gone then it would become impossible for him to get back on his feet。For that reason、he didn't want her to go to a place he didn't know and do something dangerous。

Kitsune who says those kind of words、Finia obediently apologized。Her shoulders dropped while she felt depressed、that is why when one would remember the usual Finia then this sight would be a bit unusual。

「Yes、however isn't that great！ Your level and ability level has greatly grown！ You sure are reliable！」

「Eh……Y-、yes！ Leave it to me！ Because I'll protect Kitsune myself！」

However、Kitsune forgave Finia who has obediently apologized and praised her status。It is alright if you will reflect on it、and he should be grateful for her hard work in raising her status for him。That is what he thought of。

「However that is so……I'll be asking Finia's help forever if this continues……」

「Hm？」

Kitsune moved his glance from Finia to Rishe。Rishe inclined her neck in response to Kitsune's gaze with a sound of *Kyoton*。

「Yeah、that is so……Rishe-chan、Is it possible for you to take me with you in your training？ If it's possible、that is.」

Kitsune decided to get stronger so he wouldn't rely on Finia too much。Though he didn't have the will to raise his adventurer ranking for now、but it would be better if becomes someone who can protect one's own body。This world isn't simple since this is a world where one can easily lose their life。

Then、Rishe places her hand on her chin、and she gave her answer after thinking for a while。

「Okay、I understand。Since today is just training by myself、then it's alright」

「Thank you、Rishe-chan」

「The place will be the meadows outside from the entrance of this country so it will be a bit of a walk。In the daytime、the small fry monsters loiter around the forest、so they shall be our opponents is what I've thought。I'll be going now so I'll meet you at the entrance I said a while ago so it's alright if you prepare first」

「Eh、though I'm already alright as I am right now」

Kitsune says those words to Rishe。However、Rishe abruptly narrowed her eyes on Kitsune who said such words。

「What are you saying、Kitsune。Even if I say they're small fry but it's impossible to defeat them without a weapon、are you kidding me？」

「Ah、Incidentally that is so」

Since Kitsune's past world didn't have a custom of bringing a weapon with them、he completely forgot the existence of the thing called weapons。Knights

and Adventurers are the ones who defeats monsters、but weapons are needed for that to happen。

However if one says a weapon that Kitsune has then it was a broken knife。

「……I understand、then I'll go prepare myself now」

「Okay、then I';ll be going now like what I just said a while ago」

Kitsune thought for a second and said so。Rishe looked and nods in agreement to Kitsune then she stood up。Kitsune identically stood up、and went out of the room with Rishe。Seeing Rishe as she closed the door with a key、Kitsune headed over to his room。

「Bye、I'll be seeing you later」

「Okay、it would be better if you come faster」(TLN: That sounded like (ᵔ ͜ʖ ᵔ)) Rishe went downstairs while Kitsune entered his room。

◇ ◇ ◇

Well、this is a problem。

Though deciding to go with Rishe's training is alright already、but he didn't buy any equipment since he thought that he would be getting monster subjugation requests。It's not only him if one thinks about it、an adventurer without weapons for example。

Since Finia-chan used her magic in the forest then he didn't need a weapon、the bee died from being stepped and crushed 、and the wolves obediently withdrew though……So he didn't think about it at all。

To begin with、he didn't posses any weapon。Since staple wise would be a sword as he though so、but it's impossible to be a master the act of killing with a sword so suddenly。That's only a story that happens in novels and manga you know。Moreover、he didn't have or obtained any cheat or special power other

than『Status Judgement』。

「What should we do？ Kitsune-san」

Though he hears Finia saying so、well if he doesn't have any weapon then Rishe won't permit him to join her training。

Fortunately、there was a weapon shop on the way to the entrance、so he thought of buying something handy。

「Yep、Let's go and buy。Something than even a weak person like me can handle」

「Ohh！ Kitsune-san will finally posses a weapon！ You'll become a true adventurer now！」

「There's still some of our earned money、We should be able to purchase at least one weapon」

He placed the money they earned in his pocket for the time being and they went out of the room。His eyes matched with the landlady who they were indebted to for a whole week now when they went downstairs。It seems like the landlady's name is Eira-san by the way。

「Oh、Are you going out again？」

「Yes、I'll be having a little training with Rishe-chan」

「I see、You should be careful okay？」

He got acquainted with Eira-san for a whole week in the conduct of oneself。He thought that they became intimate to the extent of having idle chats and giving greetings now。Since he was disliked by the people surrounding him、he felt a little bit embarrassed that there was a person he got intimate with。

「Yes」

「We'll be going now！」

「Okay okay、goodbye to you too Finia-chan」

I took Finia-chan who was waving her hand and went out of the inn。The street wasn't different at all and it was still lively。

I was sentimentalizing in that place a bit、but I should make Rishe-chan wait too much。I should face the weapon shop early 。

「Hey Finia-chan」

「What is it？」

「What should I do to go back to my past world is what I thought about」

To return to my past world。if it is made into a letter then it's easy、and it's also easy to make it to words、but、it wasn't easy to achieve。Originally、It's not a place that you can walk to, ride a ship to or ride a plane to reach。To cross from world to go to another world、I can't think of anything that I can do to do that。

If there was a possibility、then that thing would be Finia's『Magic』which was like a fantasy thing。If there exist a thing such as summoning like magic、then a magic to send me back would exist。Though I'm not detailed in regards to magic、but should I focus on that first of all。

「……It exists！ We would surely find it if we search for it！」

However、what if that way doesn't exist？ What if the way to meet Shiori-chan doesn't exist？

When I think about that、then the reason for me to keep on living in this world

disappears。That is……my biggest anxiety。

Though Finia-chan says so、this anxiety doesn't completely fade away。Because I have only exeperince that、though I didn't think that there was anything scary、but only this becomes impossible。

「……It is so」

There's no way even if I worry now。I'll just put this thinking away。

「Ah、Kitsune-san！ It's the weapon shop！」

「Yeah」

We arrived at the weapon store。Let's change the thing that I've been thinking。

「Excuse me」

「Alright！」

When we entered the shop and called for anyone with our voice、we heard a deep voice from the interior of the store。And after we've waited、a small old man came out。Though his height was the same as my waist、I can see that his face is more older than mine。

Perhaps、he might be from the dwarf race。Since they're good at making things、then it's expected that he's in a weapon shop。

「Kept you waiting、what is it that you need？」

「I want to buy a weapon、I want a sword or a knife that can be swung even by a weak guy like me」

「Hmmm……To want to swing a sword with such a weak body、you're a very arrogant kid huh」

The dwarf said that unto me。Certainly、about the man who shall use the weapon made from the maker himself、I also nod since I understand when I see it。Perhaps that is what he meant when he said that I was arrogant in his evaluation。

「You、why do you want a weapon？ If you're gonna say that it's for playing then go home、these guys aren't vulgar things that can be played with as you wish」

To such a dwarf、he tried to ascertain me、with his eyes that was like it was trying to look for my answer。In a serious meaning、do you really want a weapon、then I shall ascertain to that myself is what I understood。

However、what I do in this world all falls under one purpose。This is the one and only guidepost of my action。

That is why I answered。The reason for me to posses a weapon、

「To live」

That is all it is。

「……Those eyes、you don't seem to be lying huh」

「Of course、I cannot die here。There is a reason that won't happen if I don't live」

「……I see、I have understood your seriousness from your eyes。However、to wield a sword with the looks of your weak body、I don't have anything great for you？」

「It's fine、A weapon is necessary for me as of today」

While saying so、after the dwarf had a thinking like look for a few seconds、he took out one sword。It was a short sword、A small sword of about 40cm。

「This guy can be swung even by a comparatively inferior man or a normal female citizen。You'll be able to be a bit stronger and be able to defend your own body」

「Then I want that」

「Yeah、it's 10 silver coins。The sheath is also included」

「Then with this」

Even though 10 silver coins are expensive、it isn't an amount that I cannot pay。I took out 10 silver coins from my pocket、and handed it over to the dwarf。In exchange、I have received the small sword。Since it was a weapon for taking lives、it felt a little bit heavier than the original weight。

「Come by again if it needs maintenance、then I'll repair it」

「Alright、incidentally what is your name？」

「Huh？ I am dwarf Gran as you see」

「I am Kitsune the adventurer、My best regards」

「Yeah、Until your still alive though」

An adventurer is a person of freedom、therefore the don't understand when they would die。That is why even if it were just words、I still nodded。It is good as long as he doesn't die。He doesn't have any thought at all to die after all。

「Thank you、I'll be going now」

「Yeah」

Well since he has obtained a weapon then he should be on his way to Rishe's place。He went outside of the store and placed the small sword he had inside the scabbard that was attached to his belt。

「However you were quite quiet、Finia-chan」

「……I was a bit scared of his mismatch feeling lke his face was mature but his body was small」

「Ah……I see」

Finia seems to be not good with dwarfs by the contrary。

Chapter 19

Kitsune-Sama 17: Training Pattern「Kept You Waiting、Rishe-Chan」

「Un、you came huh」

Kitsune who obtained a weapon visited the entrance in the country on foot。Rishe who was leaning on the gate while waiting for Kitsune who just came a moment ago and she separated from the gate, while putting her own feet to the ground firmly。

「Then、let's go」

「Ah、even if they're called small fry but monsters are still monsters。Don't let you guard down？」

「I understand」

「Let's depart！」

They braced their spirit as they both incited their caution、as they went out from the gate while Finia is cheering。Outside was the meadows where he ran for his life for about a single week last time、and the forest where Kitsune's life vanished for how many times can be seen spread ot from far away。

Kitsune recalled the monster wrapped with miasma a little because of the sight of the forest、and a chill crawled across his back with a *Zo kutto* sound。However、the monster of miasma wasn't here right now、and this chill was only

an illusion。(TLN: Translator-san's love is that Miasma thing though……The only reason why I'm even translating this novel xD) When walking for a while、monster can be found 300m from the gate。It was the wolves who Kitsune encountered while he was running away。There were perhaps 10 in his estimation。

They were able to repel those wolves thanks to the assistance of『Eerie Constitution』last time、but he wasn't sure if it would become like that this time。Kitsune braced his spirit once again。

「It's a Hound dog、usually they would act in groups of 5 or 6、but for there to be 10……this will become troublesome for a moment」

「Is that right？」

「Yeah、although it's not that much of a trouble、the troublesome part is their coordination。It would turn into a difficult battle if we can't see the whole pack」

「ffuuu……」

She took out her sword and said those words while watching the wolves。Kitsune also looked at them with that information。Though Rishe says those words、Kitsune couldn't think of these wolves as a threat so much。For the time being、he mimicked the stance of Rishe who took out a small word from its sheath and he started to think on what he would do next。

「For now、I'll hunt all of them。Kitsune should take on the wolves within the range of what you can take and help as much as possible」

「Understood」

In accordance with the instruction of Rishe、Kitsune is a little bit strained for his first straight forward combat。However、he felt settled down eve if there should be tension for one's frist combat perhaps because he wasn't scared of them。

And thus、to the hound dogs———he stared at the enemy and boosted his concentration。

Thereupon

———『Eerie Constitution Invoked』

『Eerie Constitution』automatically invoked。

「kyankkyan！」

The Hound Dogs perceived it and held fear towards Kitsune。With the instinct of wild animals、they started to retreat。

「……」

「……」

「They ran away！」

Rishe was dumbfounded、Kitsune is making an expression of guessing what is the cause of the happening、and Finia wasn't say anything。

As Kitsune thought、『Eerie constitution』is limited to making small fry monsters to not want to fight with him。That was the severe truth、since he himself wouldn't fight overwhelmingly powerful monsters and demons。He also can't do level ups。

A the very least、the large spider he met also ran away from the pressure it got from『Eerie Constitution』。In short、it is unlikely that he would fight any monster beyond the level of that large spider。

「……Kitsune、did you do anything？」

「Nope、I didn't do anything at all」

「……I-、is that so、that's weird……though Hound dogs aren't strong but it wouldn't run if there were more in a pack」

With Rishe who is doubting while inclining her neck、Kitsune decided to deceive her。The happening a while ago wasn't because of me、is what he decided to insist on。

「I'm sure that they retreated because of Finia-chan's strength！ Yep、that must be so！」

「Eh？ Is that so？ Ehehehe……」

Kitsune insists that it was all thanks to Finia with all his best。He praised Finia、and covered up his groundless story with the understanding truth of Finia's strength。

Thereupon、even though Rishe didn't understand the reason for the time being、she concluded that there might have been something that touched the heartstrings of the Hound dogs。

「For the time being、let's go to another place。Since there are a lot of lower class monsters other than the Hound dogs」

「O-、okay……」

For the time being, Kitsune understood that because of『Eerie Constitution』all low class monsters would run away、though he took sides with her、his will to fight has already disappeared。

「……N」

Kitsune unexpectedly looked at Rishe's status。It can be said that she's been practicing like this for 2 years now。Then wouldn't her level be also high？ is what Kitsune thought。

While Kitsune catches the sight of Rishe who was walking ahead、he invoked『Status judgement』。

◇Status◇

Name: Torishe・Rumieira

Gender : Female　Lv23

Strength: 420 (TLN: BLAZE IT)

Stamina: 560

Resilience: 90

Dexterity: 550

Magic: 120

Title :『Apprentice Knight』『Demon Eye Holder』

Skill:『Fencing Lv2』『Body Strengthening Lv2』『Swift run』『Dem0n eye of Foresight Lv0』

Peculiar Skill:『Dem0n eye of Foresight』

PT member: Finia (Fairy)、Naginata Kitsune (Human)

◇

Oh？ is what he thought。Compared to the E rank adventurer who Kitsune knew、He also peeped at the status of Jeno・Gureas who was courting the receptionist big boobed girl Mia。In that case、his level is twice higher than the present Rishe and his status was higher too。

However、Rishe today can't even fill in half of the status of Jeno。Though『Dexterity』ability level is high、the other statuses was a bit low for the level of 23 is what he thought。

Did Jeno have an outstanding special talent or does Rishe have no talent is what he didn't know、but maybe the increase rate of the status is different for each person。That is what Kitsune thought of。

At that point、there was something Kitsune was a little bit anxious about and asked。

「Hey Rishe-chan」

「What ？」

「Have you ever seen your own Ability level？」

「Yeah I have、since there is a magic tool in the base of the Knight's mass and the adventurer's guild that can show a person's ability level」

Magic tool、but though another word that he knows not about has appeared、he decided to put it on hold later by just confirming it when going to the guild。

「In that case、I want you to teach me about『Resilience』in the ability level」

Yes、Kitsune was anxious about the『Resilience』in his status。Kitsune understood that the largest increase rate in his status is『Resilience』。

Nevertheless、the most strongest ability level from all that he has seen Jeno、Mia and Millia who were normal citizens、and Rshe who was in his presence、all had a remarkably low『Resilience』。What does this all mean？

「『Resilience』huh……Certainly『Resilience』has a clear distinction with the others。With that trait、it is the least to greatly rise in all of the ability level。

Though it would rise if one had an aptitude for it、there are no people who are like that either。For example Even for an S Rank and A rank adventurer、around 500 would be good as hard as possible」

「Is that so……」

Kitsune heard so、and he didn’t think that he had a considerably excellent aptitude towards『Resilience』。

In the place actually、he didn’t see much people with aptitude towards『Resilience』from humans or beast men。With the structure of the body、the reason is that humans didn’t excel much in defense power。Sometimes、though there would be people with an aptitude of『Resilience』too、it wasn’t much different from the good amount too。

Alternatively、the living things called monsters and demons have a great aptitude for『Resilience』。Different from humans、they had scales and thick fur armor like protection with them。For that reason、a normal citizen can’t oppose against them、and with that defense power、normal attacks wouldn’t pass through。

「Well it’s natural to be anxious since it won’t affect the rest of the ability level、so did Kitsune become anxious because『Resilience』wasn’t that much high like the other ones？」

「Yeah well it’s like that」

Unexpectedly、Kitsune understood that his weapon was greater than from his expectation and a small scope has appeared。He now wanted to test how far he can go when he levels up.

But however、Rishe said another new truth right there。

「However other ability level than『Tolerance』also、won’t go up forever even if there is an aptitude with it」

「Eh？」

「There is a limit in ability levels、It won't go up if it reaches the limit even if how much one would raise their level」

「Eh、really……」

If it becomes so、the possibility of the the defense power which is the weapon of Kitsune would be insufficient depending on its limit。The small scope that was born awhile ago vanished at that moment。

「It's alright Kitsune-san！ Even if Kitsune-san stays as weak as like right now but I'll still protect you！」

「Thanks for the words to someone like me who'd *Thunk* like right now、Finia-chan」(TLN: Thunk = sound of someone falling to the ground)「！ Cease your chatting for now……there it is」

While walking while attending an easy lecture of the status、Rishe caught the sight of a monster in their presence。Though it wasn't with a group、it's body was fairly big。Though it's appearance was that of a bear、it had long fangs which it couldn't hide from its mouth、and a sharp long finger nails could be seen from its paws which was gripping the ground。

Promptly、Kitsune peeped at its status。

◇Status◇

Name: Mountain bear

Race: Bear type monster

Strength: 1500

Stamina: 350

Resilience: 240 (TLN: Blaze it)

Dexterity: 350

Magic: 0

◇

Though it seems like it doesn't have any skill apparently、its power was the same as it's appearance。If those fangs and fingernails were swung with the power in its status、it would deal an incomparable might。

「That is a……Mountain Bear……why is it in such a place like this」

「Its strong huh、that thing」

「Yeah、If it says by an adventurer's standards then……it's an E rank monster」

「What should we do？」

「Were not people who can cross swords with that……however、it doesn't look like it would let us flee」

Rishe prepared herself。When one sees it、the bear looked at Kitsune and it was threatened。It seems to have recognized them as enemies。Since Kitsune has Finia, first of all he desperately calmed his spirit down for the enemy to not see him as an enemy。If by chance he used『Eerie Constitution』and the monster flees then the next time would be harder to deceive Rishe。

「It's coming！ Stance———」

「『Fairy's Hymn』！」

A resounding explosion.

A blast the blew off it’s body

The field of vision is dyed of pure white、

A delayed burning of the skin temperature.

Though it was impossible to understand what is happening somehow、the only thing that could be understood is that something happened at a dash。

「W-、what hap…… ！？」

And、when Rishe regains her view、

「！？ Thi-、This is…… ！？」

There was no bear in the presence。Instead、the ground was scorched with a 5 meter radius from there。

And、when she saw Finia who was floating near Kitsune while both her hands were stretched out、she understood that it was her magic that erased the bear a while ago。Finia noticed her glance and scratched her face while making an expression like she’s asking what’s the matter。Rishe got a little bit annoyed「…… Kitsune」

「What may it be Rishe-chan」

「This is not becoming a training when training with you guys though……」

「……Yes、I’m sorry」

It escapes when it recognizes that Kitsune is an enemy、and if a monster that seems to be strong for a moment shows up then Finia just makes it vanish 、and if it was for Rishe then she would fight it。Where would be the destination of the unsheathed sword be。Only the air is slashed。

「The following is、we won’t be doing anything」

「WHAT WON’T YOU BE DOING！」

「I thought that we won’t do anything and just return home though！？」

That is the right answer de aru。It seems that the compatibility of Kitsune and his friends with Rishe is bad。The pair tightly understood that。

「Then well……Let’s divide into two groups」

「That’s right……I’ll be saved if that is so」

Though Kitsune understood that he himself is weak、with Rishe who thinks that her follow up isn’t needed with Finia’s ability、they accepted Kitsune’s words。It will become a true training with that。

「In that case、we will be going that way！」

「Then I’ll be going over there」

Finia pointed at the direction where she turned up a little while ago and Rishe pointed at the opposite direction。And Kitsune and his followers divided into 2 groups according to their mutual policy a while ago。

At this point there were 2 battles and 2 victories、yet there were no one who raised a single level。